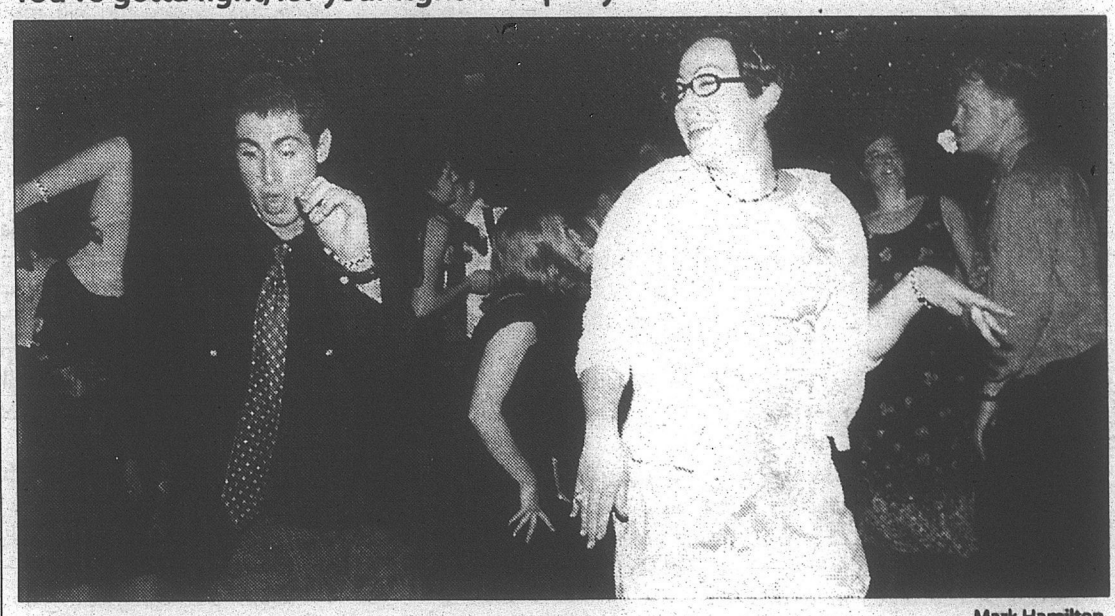
The Middlebury Campus

VOL. 96 NO. 14 | Thursday, March 5, 1998 | SINCE 1905

You've gotta fight, for your right... to party!



Mark Hamilton

Dancing the night away, Quinn Raymond '00 and Nicole Lanthier '99 groove to the tunes of Bim Skala Bim at the Winter Carnival Ball in the Pepin Gym on Saturday night.

Financial aid exemptions set competitive precedent

Princeton, Yale gain competitive edge with generous grants

By Stefanie Koperniak
Staff Writer

According to Michael Schoenfeld, Middlebury's Dean of Enrollment Planning, recent developments in the financial aid programs at other colleges and universities are causing Middlebury to review its own financial aid policies. Both Princeton University and Yale University have recently announced dramatic increases in the amount of financial aid they allocate for students causing many in higher education to wonder if others will follow suit.

Focusing on the efforts of Princeton in particular, Schoenfeld said that the school was seeking to "expand the financial aid program to cover more of the costs [for students]." The two main alterations in Princeton's financial aid program involve the replacement of loans with grants for families with an income below $40,000, and a policy which exempts a family's home equity when calculating the total need of families with an income below $90,000.

Schoenfeld explained that Princeton's ability to implement these policies stems from its "enormous resources." Princeton has approximately $75,000 in endowments per student, which is more than any other school in the country. "At this point, not many schools have announced policies like this," said Schoenfeld.

Schools like Princeton typically acquire more than three times the endowments of Middlebury, allowing them to do more in the way of financial aid packages. Schoenfeld also explained that Middlebury has been able to offer a significant amount of funding for financial aid. Approximately 40 percent of Middlebury students currently receive financial aid. The average amount of money awarded per student is approximately $16,000.

"We are fortunate in that we have great support from the Board of Trustees, [and therefore] we have very generous financial aid policies," said Schoenfeld, in reference to Middlebury's guarantee to meet the full demonstrated need of each student.

"The ability to meet demonstrated need takes tremendous resources," said Schoenfeld, "and [many schools] are unable to meet full need."

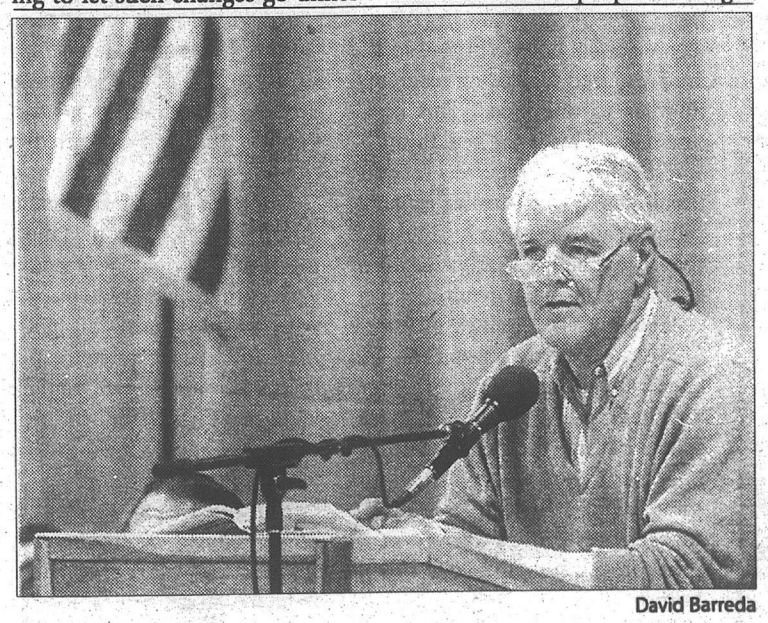
A central issue for consideration regarding the future of Middlebury's financial aid policies is the way in which the college will incorporate President Clinton's recently established Hope Scholarship, which will not take effect until April 1999. The Hope Scholarship, modeled on a program first instituted by Georgia Governor Zell Miller several years ago in that state, is designed to offer a tax break for middle-class families with the purpose of increasing the family's ability to pay for higher education. Schoenfeld explained that Middlebury will decide in May "whether or not to ignore this tax break" when determining the total need of families applying for financial aid.

Community gathers for town meeting

By Josh Irwin
Associate Editor

Middlebury, Vt., March 2 — After more than two centuries of Middlebury town meetings, tradition has made only a few concessions to the modern age. The annual proceedings are now broadcast over public access television, for instance, and Town Clerk Richard Goodro, who sits before the citizenry assembled here tonight, occasionally consults a white laptop computer. Unwilling to let such changes go unheralded, Moderator James Douglas points Goodro's computer out to the gathering of roughly 200 Middlebury residents. "Dick's showing off his high-tech talent," he says. "Glad he's in the 20th century before it ends."

For the most part, the meeting's traditional format is intact and continues to afford town voters direct control over local affairs. Middlebury aims to spend almost $4 million in the coming fiscal year, and over the next three hours residents review the proposed budget in detail, peppering various department heads and the select board, seven elected representatives who run the town government, with questions.



David Barreda

A variety of issues were debated at this year's town meeting on Monday.

Although the budget will be voted on as a single item, expenditures on everything from the town's dog warden to a small tractor used by the Department of Public Works are broken down for inspection. Without voter approval, the money cannot be appropriated and spent and the taxpayers take their time. A separate item up for consideration, which prompts the evening's longest debate, is the purchase of a new street sweeper. When will it need replacement? Will it sweep sidewalks?

The annual town report, available to everyone settled into the folding chairs arranged in the municipal gym, is more than a detailed accounting of revenue and spending, tax rates and bond payments. Not only does the Ilsley Library seek to spend $270,000 next year, one reads, but it loaned 52,000 books in 1997 and now provides full Internet access. Pages later, opposite a photo of the Russ Sholes Senior Center Sew-Sew Girls Group, is a progress report

(see Community, page 2)

Fire Marshal mandates removal of hall trash cans

By Emily Manning
Opinions Editor

This past Friday Vermont's Assistant Fire Marshal ordered the college to remove all combustible materials from dorm exit ways by Monday at noon. The mandate was prompted by an investigation of a fire in the new dorms on February 22 that is believed to be the work of an arsonist.

Facilities Management staff worked expeditiously Friday afternoon to remove all recycling bins and posters from dormitory hallways while contending with an already busy Winter Carnival weekend workload in order to meet the time limit set by the marshal's order.

Despite the college's immediate compliance with the law, officials feel Middlebury has been singled out. Like most schools in the state of Vermont, the college does not comply with the "Life Safety Code," a national fire safety standard which was established by the National Fire Prevention Association, and later adopted as law by the Vermont Legislature. Due to a lack of manpower, the state has not been able to consistently regulate the code.

Two possible arson fires in two years at Middlebury College have now prompted strict enforcement of the law. In both cases, the fires were started by posters and recycling bins which were ignited in the hallway.

Curiously, Middlebury was not forced to comply with the Life Safety Code following the first arson in December 1996. The state fire marshal did not visit the college at that time.

"Students should not be angry at the college or the state," said Wendy Russell, assistant director of Residential Life. "The reason [the removal of trash cans, recycling bins and posters from halls] has happened is because of the person who has set the fire. Students should only be angry at [the arsonist]."

According to Edmund Sullivan, Middlebury's Safety Officer, Friday's mandate was meant primarily to "take the temptation out of setting fires" rather than to prevent the obstruction of exits in residential hallways. Regarding the return of the trash and recycling bins to hallways, however, Sullivan said that the college is now at the mercy of the state.

"As fast as they move and deal with us determines how soon the situation will be improved," said Sullivan."

Sullivan plans to contact the Fire Marshal sometime this week to discuss the college's alternatives.

By issuing the mandate to remove all flammable materials from hallways, the state of Vermont has now assumed all fire liability for the college and can be held accountable for any such incidents that might occur. Thus, it is not likely that the state will be easily swayed by any solutions offered by the college.

The only remedy the state has offered thus far was relocating the trash and recycling bins outdoors. As the college presently lacks any weatherproof bins, administrators have not followed through with this suggestion. According to Sullivan, it would take quite a bit of time for Facilities Management to acquire the number of outdoor bins the college would need to accommodate the student body.

Students are asked to place their trash in outdoor dumpsters. Large trash bags are also available from resident assistants in each dormitory. According to Russell, the college has discussed the possibility of setting aside specific rooms for trash

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Alpine and Nordic skiers place third at carnival
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COLLEGE shorts

By Megan Sowards
News Editor

When pigs fly, or learn to talk

In a Pavlovian experiment for the '90's, animal sciences professors at Pennsylvania State University hope to teach pigs to communicate when they are hungry by maneuvering a computer joystick.

For the past year, Stanley E. Curtis and Candace C. Croney have been helping pigs, including one named Hamlet, "communicate."

The pigs are also learning how to express when they feel sick, too hot or too cold. Dr. Curtis has dreamed of an experiment such as the one he is conducting now ever since he observed chimpanzees using sign language at the Yerkes Regional Primate Research Center in Atlanta.

While Hamlet, a "micropig", was bred to maintain a body weight under 60 pounds, he has grown so adept at maneuvering the joystick for foot that he has ballooned to more than 350 pounds.

Source: *Chronicle of Higher Education*

"I see," said the blind man; physicist recognizes the scent of bureaucracy

John Gardner, a physicist at Oregon State University, invented a Braille system for computers only to find his grant proposal to the U.S. Department of Education was rejected since it was not double spaced and typed in "a font smaller than 12-point."

Gardner, who is blind, protested the loss of the $300,000 grant on the basis of a technicality. "I'm blind," he pointed out. "I couldn't tell it was single-spaced."

Source: *Seven Days*

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Bicentennial Campaign hits $90 million

By Megan Sowards
News Editor

Middlebury's ambitious Bicentennial Campaign, which aspires to raise $200 million by November 2000, has cleared the $90 million mark. "We are well on our way to meeting the next milestone, [the $100 million mark], which is the goal for July 1," said Will Melton, vice-president of External Affairs.

The college has allocated $50 million of the Bicentennial Campaign's anticipated total to improvements and additions to the campus' physical plant.

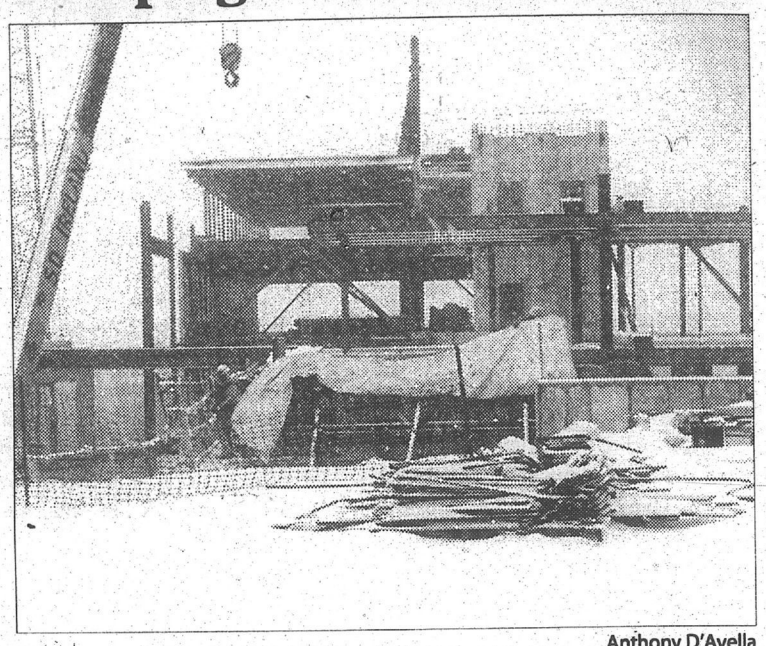
Another $50 million will be spent on the Academic Plan, $30 million will go toward endowed scholarships.

An endowed professorship fund will receive $30 million dollars while the college's annual fund will be augmented by $35 million.

Since the campaign's official launch during Homecoming Weekend last fall, the college has received four separate gifts in the $5 million range.

Three of these gifts were made by members of the Middlebury College Board of Trustees; a non-profit foundation donated the fourth. The benefactors of these generous gifts remain anonymous.

Other donors have also been very liberal with their checkbooks. Melton explained that nearly 80 percent of the money raised so far has come from gifts in excess of $100,000.



Anthony D'Avella

The campaign allocates $50 million to projects like Bicentennial Hall.

However, these figures do not surprise Melton. In campaigns such as the Bicentennial, approximately four-fifths of the dollars generally come from large gifts such as the ones the college has received.

The lion's share of the money raised so far has come as a result of launch events hosted by Middlebury last fall in 14 cities across the United States where there are high alumni concentrations, such as New York, Washington, D.C. and Boston. The college plans to host similar launch events this spring. Some regions to be canvassed include Minneapolis, Northern New Jersey, Western Massachusetts and even London, England.

According to Melton, the second $100 million may be harder to earn since it will entail extensive travel and contact with numerous Middlebury alumni and various foundations.

Yet, three years remain before the campaign's target date of November 2000 when its $200 million goal is projected to become a reality.

"At this distant point it appears we will reach our goal," said Melton.

The progress of the campaign over the last three months can be followed on a web site created by the External Affairs Office.

Community gathers for town meeting

(continued from page 1)

from the director of the local emergency shelter. The report even includes a list of delinquent taxpayers and pickup dates for recycling.

It is not only how much Middlebury will spend that is open for discussion; a vote also determines when taxes will fall due. Nor are financial matters the sole concern. The select board asks for a "thoughtful and lively" discussion about the future of the aging municipal building, a request eliciting widespread sentiment against moving town government away from the downtown.

The reason hundreds of New England towns insist upon continuing the town meeting tradition crystallizes when a Middlebury resident questions the hire of a new traffic enforcement officer. Police Chief Tom Hanley rises to respond from his seat among the voters. Dwarfed by one of the basketball hoops, the two share a microphone; discussion carries calmly back and forth until the question is resolved.

The crowd of regulars displays no similar sense of moment and despite a businesslike tone, the meeting carries the air of town - wide social event.

Only the outsiders seem struck by the uniquely direct nature of the proceedings. A handful of college students not permitted in the area reserved for voting residents, huddles to one side. "This is it," one says. "This is the real thing."

The crowd of regulars, by contrast, displays no similar sense of moment and despite a businesslike tone, the meeting carries the air of a town-wide social event.

Douglas recognizes by name nearly everyone signaling to speak. Although arriving voters are checked against the list of residents before Middlebury Professor David Rosenberg can mark their hands with a purple magic marker, he seems to know a good number well enough to verify their hometown on his own.

In addition to Rosenberg, Professors John Emerson, Ellen Oxfeld and Frank Winkler are here; the crowd is a mix of rumpled suits and v-neck sweaters, hiking boots, a few long beards and an abundance of flannel. The volunteer fire department, to whom the town report is dedicated, is in dress blues and receives a standing ovation for its performance. A woman toward the front knits and a five-year-old in rubber boots wanders across the tarpaulin protecting the gym floor.

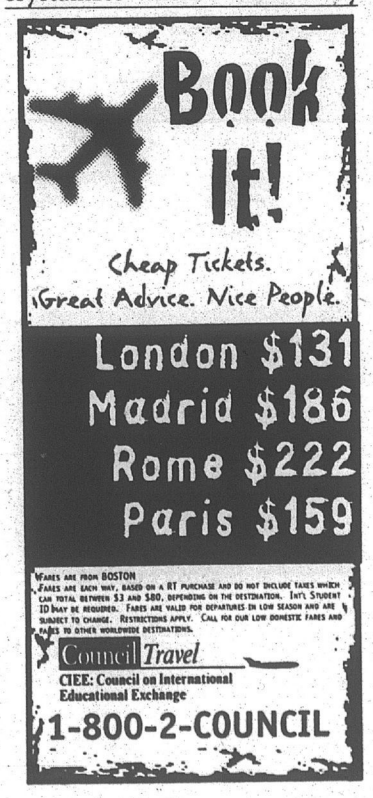
Ultimately all the items on the evening's agenda pass by unanimous voice vote and the following day voters approve additional proposals by written ballot.

But town politics are not always so tame. What's consuming most of local and state attention won't be considered here tonight, but surfaces on occasion nonetheless. That prominent issue is Act 60, state legislation passed in response to the Vermont State Supreme Court ruling that local property taxes as a mechanism for funding public education are unconstitutional.

Different school districts tax at different rates, the court ruled, and the resulting quality of education varies unfairly. Middlebury won't vote on its school budget until May, and what a statewide property tax — which will replace the local tax to fund education more equally — means for the town isn't yet certain.

But at least one resident voices an uneasiness stemming not only from a fear of higher taxes but from frustration at a loss of the local control wielded here tonight.

"It upsets me terribly to see the school tax has jumped 15 cents [per hundred dollars of assessed property value] in the last week," he says. "God only knows where it will go in the next couple of weeks when the legislature gets done with it."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Fire results in removal of receptacles

(continued from page 1)

cans and recycling bins in each residential building, and plans to present the idea to state officials.

Representatives from Facilities Management, Custodial Services, Residential Life and Operations met with Sullivan on Monday to discuss possible measures to re-implement a trash disposal system that would comply with the state's mandate.

The committee also discussed ways in which students might be able to hang posters in dorms. Suggestions included covering hall poster boards with a sheet of Plexiglas, which would suffocate any fire set to a poster beneath. Under the mandate, posters can still be placed in common areas in residence halls such as lounges.

The mandate has placed a strain on the college's recycling program. With virtually no separation of trash being done by students, little recycling is taking place on campus.

"If they don't put the bins back, no one is going to recycle," commented David Barreda '00.

Russell said that it will be a challenge for the college to maintain the same level of recycling, "especially if the new system is less convenient."

Students were also upset at the immediacy with which trash bin and posters were removed from the dorms. Despite a phone message explaining the new policy, many students felt they were left in the dark by the mandate and its rather sudden implementation.

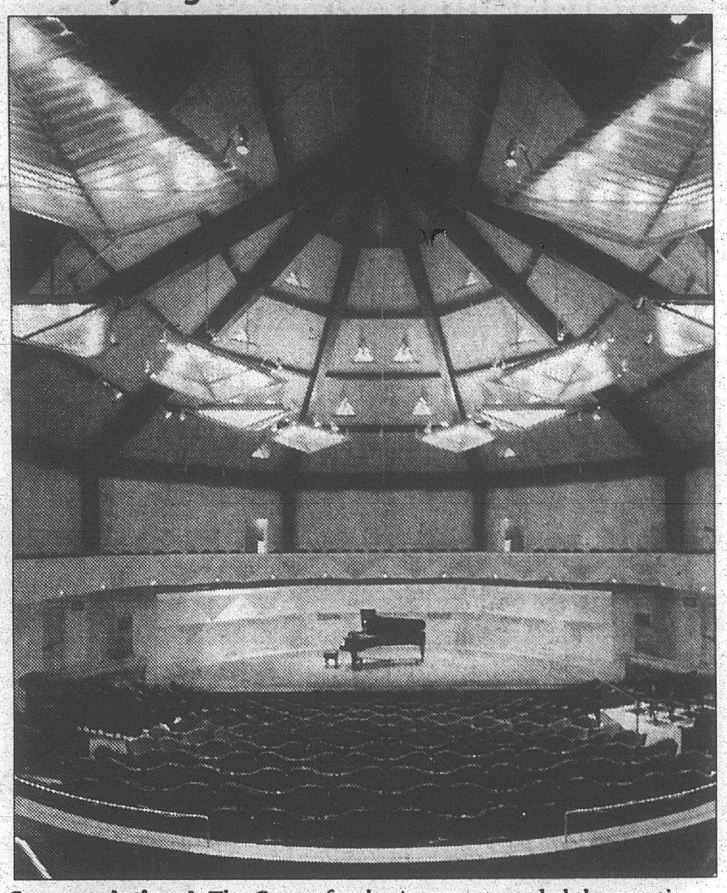
Most students did not understand why the state suddenly called for the strict measures. "It all has seemed a little drastic and uncalled for," commented Josh Gordon '00. Russell said of the trash bin and poster removal that "this was not an ideal situation." Russell indicated that the college would have preferred to warn students and let them take their posters off their respective doors themselves.

Sullivan, who was on vacation for the past two weeks, said that he returned to face what he called "a very serious situation." He wanted students to know that while they are doing everything possible to improve the current situation, but the mandate was a result of student action.

Neither Middlebury Police Officer Don Sweet nor Director of Security Tedi Jennings would comment on the arson investigation. However, both mentioned other incidents of vandalism and dorm damage that occurred the same weekend of the fire that are not related to the investigation. The most serious vandalism cases have been solved, according to Jennings. The person who shattered the Coffrin window with a trash can on Feb. 22 turned himself in. An anonymous tip led Security to the two people who discharged the fire extinguishers in Battell the same morning.

Jennings wishes to stress that the current arson investigation needs the assistance of students. Any one with any information is strongly encouraged to call (1-800-ARSON).

To everything there is a season



Congratulations!: *The Center for the Arts* was awarded the prestigious ISPA Graphics prize for its "Four Seasons" poster.

Geonomics acts as hub for International Studies

By Matthew Potenza
Staff Writer

The incorporation of the Geonomics Institute into Middlebury College last summer has put the college well on its way to transforming the International Studies program into one of the college's seven peaks of excellence President McCardell has defined for the college. Increasingly, the center has been host to symposia, student and faculty which specialize in International studies.

In its first year, the Geonomics Institute welcomed eight faculty members from each of the various departments related to International Studies into its house located behind Proctor, providing some of the most posh office space on campus.

Professor of Political Science and Chair of that department Michael Kraus commented that the Geonomics Institute has become "a beehive of activity," referring to the many classes, lectures, meetings and presentations that take place there daily.

The Geonomics Institute has taken "the large commitment of faculty and staff resources to International Studies interests as its point of departure to find the most efficient ways of structuring and living off the energy that's already there [within the International Studies program]," according to Kraus

Essentially, the Geonomics Institute has become a central spot for coordinating the college's many international interests. Kraus pointed out that a number of symposia, such as the Peace Colloquium, have been supported by the Geonomic Institute's facilities and resources.

"Geonomics is the synergy between what faculty can do and what students want to do," said Kraus.

Kraus presently serves as head of a steering committee that has been working for the past several months to initiate areas of student and faculty interactions with the outside world. Kraus said that "visitors from the real world" are brought to campus to share their experience and talk about their international careers.

Future plans for the institute include the creation of a newsletter for those students and faculty involved with the International Studies program, which, Kraus said "would provide an umbrella for International Studies events on campus, which are unusually rich [at Middlebury]."

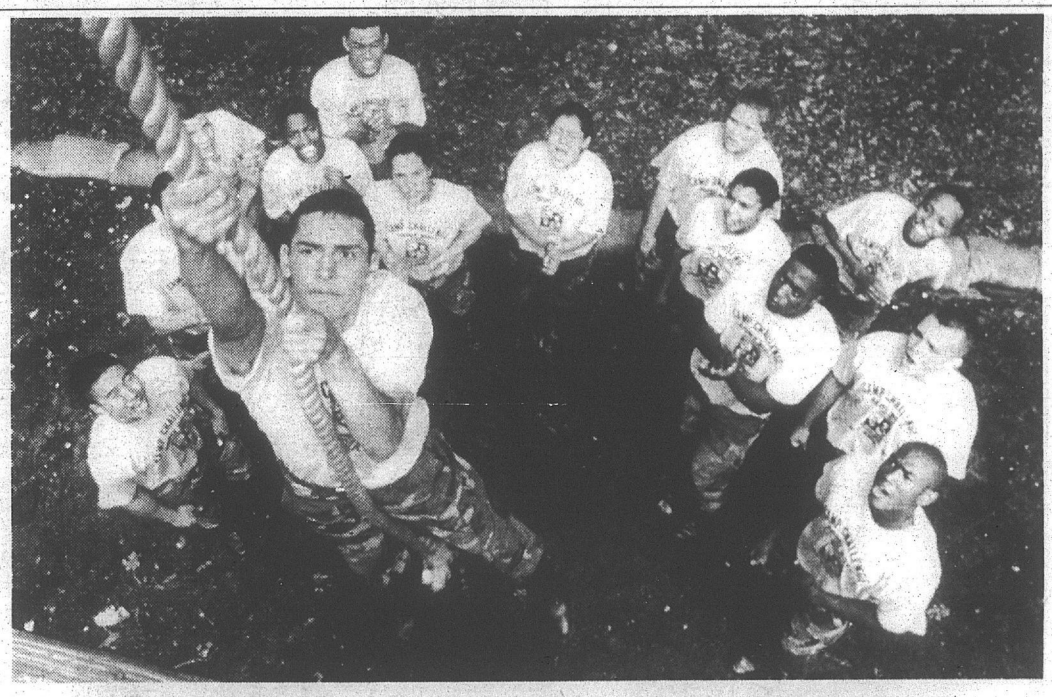
Additionally, the first in a series of presentations that are a part of the International Studies Faculty Colloquium (ISFC) took place at Geonomics on Wednesday. ISFC was started by the Geonmics Institute and the International Studies Department to provide a forum for the presentation of research done by scholars in the field of International Studies.

Charlotte Tate, Geonomics Development and Events coordinator, said that the ISFC is "an exciting opportunity [in which] different faculty of International Studies interact and share their work."

Kraus said, "[This program] is the first in what we hope to be a continuing series in which faculty give a report on their research in progress."

Kraus pointed out that the faculty involved in the colloquium would be presenting the same work at other institutions, but the center's informal format allows share their research with Middlebury students well in advance of their final presentation. These informal presenta-

(see Geonomics, page 4)



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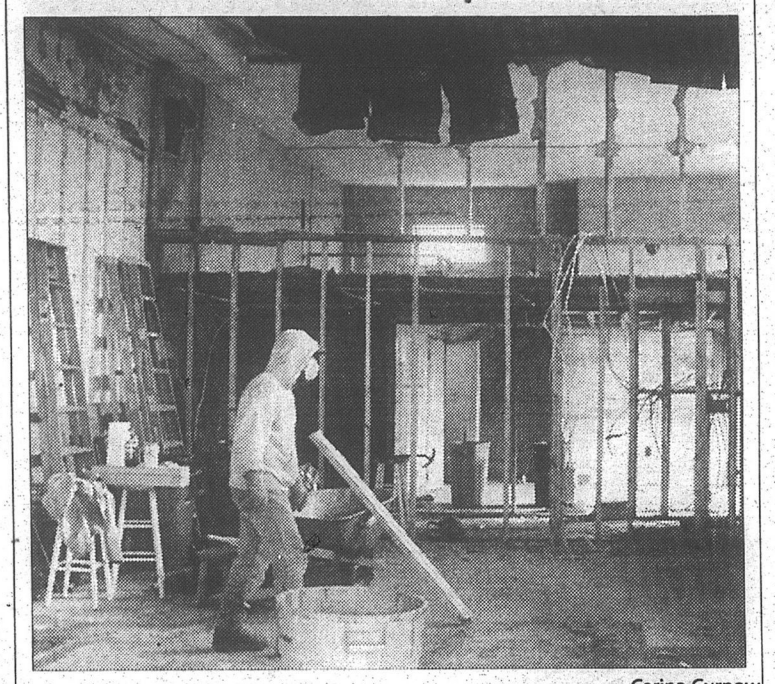

Carina Curnow

Unexpected renovations: *the Rainbow Room continues to make repairs from damage caused by an accidental fire started last week.*

Council tackles current alcohol policy

By Jen Crystal
Staff Writer

The issue of Middlebury's alcohol policy was discussed yet again at Monday's Community Council meeting with the goal of creating a policy which will "minimize the negative outcomes of drinking" and more evenly distribute the responsibility for infractions on members of the community.

Dean of Students Ann Hanson and Director of Health Education Yonna McShane spoke of this issue at Monday's meeting.

Hanson stated that the two main foci of Middlebury's current alcohol policy are combating behavior which violates state law and responding to abusive drinking.

Presently, illegal behavior related to alcohol on campus is dealt with by residential life staff intervention and by Campus Security's citation system.

As it exists now, the first and second citations are considered unofficial college discipline and can be expunged from one's record upon graduation if no further disciplinary action is taken. Anything beyond the first two citations is considered official college discipline and becomes permanent record.

"Within the first two years, 500 citations were issued, four students were suspended and 10 to 20 students were put on social probation." said Hanson.

This response to abusive drinking is "treated as a safety issue," Hanson said.

"We don't want students in need of help hiding in the corner from security."

Abusive drinking deals with injury, disability or a threat related to alcohol consumption and is handled by security, the Health Center, Porter Hospital and the Deans Office.

"After the third [offense], we either mandate counseling or recommend the student leave school for a while to get help," said Hanson.

The Dean's Office keeps track of every violation. "This is to ensure consistency," said Hanson. "If we don't follow up, we could lose federal funding and grants which could impact our ability to give financial aid."

"The main problem is the issue of responsibility," said Hanson.

Currently, Residential Life (RA's, RHA's, and JC's), Campus Security, the Dean's Office, friends, student activities, self, state and local police and the state liquor inspector are the means of enforcing the alcohol policy.

The Office of Health education is now attempting to combat the alcohol problem through various educational approaches. Yet, while educational efforts to combat excessive alcohol consumption have been increased in recent years, the council hopes to create even more avenues to deal with this problem.

However, an increased number of empty alcohol bottles and cans on Thursday nights, off-campus parties, drinking in rooms behind closed doors, off-campus pledge activities and hostility towards security has prompted the council to seek a yet more effective alcohol policy.

"The challenge is to balance educational efforts and enforcement," Hanson concluded.

McShane, who will soon be conducting a new survey of alcohol statistics at Middlebury, echoed Hanson's concerns. "We need to try to minimize the negative outcomes of drinking," she said.

"I am really concerned. I think in any given weekend we could have a death from an [alcohol] overdose."

Community Council will welcome another presentation on alcohol on Monday before it decides its course of action.

Geonomics sponsors faculty lectures

(continued from page 3)

tions involve largely unpolished lectures delivered during a lunch which lasts about 20 minutes. The lectures are geared towards people with a busy schedule. Students research assistants would also be invited to join the presenting faculty member.

James West, professor of history, was present Wednesday for the lecture "Capitalist Moscow, Old and New." Tate indicated that the number of faculty in attendance is expected to grow as the program develops. This exchange of research information is aimed at increasing communication between faculty members involved in International Studies and students and fits in well with the main goal of Geonomics — to heighten the excellence of the International Studies program. Other events sponsored by the Geonomics Institute include a panel discussion on March 9 entitled "Advancing Your International Career: Perspectives of Women Professionals." This discussion, in recognition of International Woman's Day on March 8, is led by alumni Jane L. Brett '46 and Pamela Nuget Czekanski '81. Brett is a founding partner of the Wall Street firm Weiss, Peck and Greer and past president of the New York Society of Security Analysts; and Czekanski is the vice-president and portfolio manager at Loomis Sayles & Co. Other panelists include Margaret Chapman, former vice-president of the U.S.-Russia Business Council; and Elizabeth Knup, program director of the National Committee on U.S.-China Relations. Brett will also be giving a talk on March 10 at 12:15 p.m. in the Geonomics House.

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Campus Security Log

02/17/98 Responded to a fire alarm in Milliken
02/18/98 Responded to an illegal party in Starr
02/19/98 Responded to an unregistered party in Forest
02/19/98 Responded to a report of a student driving on the sidewalk between Battell and Forest
02/20/98 Responded to a fire alarm in Centeno caused by a pulled box
02/20/98 Responded to a report of a student driving the wrong way on a one-way street by Stewart
02/21/98 Responded to an illegal party in 9 Adirondack
02/21/98 Responded to a report of a student driving on the lawn by Prescott
02/21/98 Responded to a fire alarm in Pearsons caused by a person pulling a pull station
02/21/98 Responded to a false alarm in Warner Science caused by illegal use of fire safety equipment
02/21/98 Responded to a fire alarm in the Science Center caused by a person pulling a pull station
02/21/98 Responded to a fire alarm in Coffrin caused by a fire in a recycling bin
02/22/98 Responded to a fire in alarm in Battell caused by illegal use of fire safety equipment
02/22/98 Received a report of dorm damage in Ross Lounge
02/22/98 Received a report of vandalism in Coffrin
02/22/98 Responded to a fire on the fourth floor of Kelly
02/23/98 Responded to several reports of property damage due to fire in Kelly
02/25/98 Responded to a report of a student driving on the lawn in D-lot
02/26/98 Responded to an illegal party in Battell
02/27/98 Transported an intoxicated student from Allen to Porter Medical Center
02/2798 Responded to a report of a student driving on the lawn between Chateau and Allen
02/27/98 Responded to a report of vandalism in Allen
02/27/98 Responded to a report of intoxicated students in Battell
02/28/98 Responded to an illegal party in Stewart
02/28/98 Responded to an illegal party in Allen
02/28/98 Responded to an unregistered party in Stewart
03/01/98 Confiscated an illegal keg from Fiese
03/01/98 Confiscated an illegal keg from 1 Adirondack view
03/01/98 Responded to a fire safety violation in Fiese
03/02/98 Responded to an unregistered party in Davis

Doonesbury

BY G.B. TRUDEAU

WHY, HELLO, DEAR HEART!
HUH?
AREN'T YOU REGGIE, MY SISTER PEARL'S SECOND HUSBAND?
DEPENDS! WHO'S ASKIN'?
IT'S LACEY, YOUR SISTER-IN-LAW! PEARL AND I ARE SWITCHING PLACES FOR THE DAY! AS A LARK! AREN'T WE JUST WICKED?
AND YOUR PEOPLE ARE OKAY WITH THIS? I DOUBT IT, LADY!
YOU KNOW, MRS. D, THERE'S SOMETHING DIFFERENT ABOUT YOU...
IT'LL COME TO YOU.
YOU WHAT?
WE TRADED PLACES, AS A LARK. DON'T WORRY— IT'S JUST FOR THE DAY...
GOOD GOD, WOMAN— WHERE IS SHE?
IN THE PARK. SHE'S SAFE AS PIE. ELMONT WILL KEEP AN EYE ON HER.
BUT THIS IS OUTRAGEOUS! IT'S LIKE SOMETHING OUT OF DICKENS! NO, NOT DICKENS... HEMINGWAY! NO, NO, DOSTOYEVSKY!... NO...
KAFKA?
NO, NO, IT BEGINS WITH A "P"! NO, A "C"! NO, NO, A "W"!
OH, YEAH, HIM.
YOU LET LACEY GO SIT IN THE PARK WITH ELMONT? ARE YOU OUT OF YOUR MIND?
WELL, IT'S ALL RELATIVE, DUCKS...
I MEAN, LET'S LOOK AT THE PLAYERS. LACEY IS SUFFERING FROM DEMENTIA, ELMONT'S SCHIZOPHRENIC AND YOU'RE CLINICALLY DISFUNCTIONAL...
FROM WHERE I'M SITTING, I'M THE ONLY ONE OF OUR LITTLE GANG STILL IN POSSESSION OF ALL HER MARBLES.
GOOD GOD, YOU'RE RIGHT! YOU'RE OUR ONLY HOPE!
EXACTLY. WHICH IS WHY I HAVE TO KEEP MY STRENGTH UP.
SEE, PEARL HAD ALWAYS WONDERED ABOUT MY GRACIOUS LIFESTYLE, AND I'D ALWAYS BEEN CURIOUS ABOUT HERS!
UH-HUH...
SO WE AGREED— SHE WOULD PLAY TOWNHOUSE MOUSE FOR THE DAY, AND I WOULD GIVE THE OUTDOORSY LIFE A WHIRL! I MUST SAY, SO FAR I LOVE IT!
AHEM... AHEM?
WHAT? WHAT IS IT NOW?
I CAN'T SEEM TO CATCH THE TOWEL BOY'S EYE...
HE'S MARRIED, DON'T GO THERE.
ISN'T IT JUST THE MOST GLORIOUS DAY, REGGIE? ISN'T IT JUST THE GRANDEST?
DO YOU MIND? I'M TRYING TO GET THE SKINNY ON THE EMBATTLED YEN!
OH... SORRY, DEAR.
LET'S DO SOMETHING GAY, REG! LET'S GO SAILING!
NO CAN DO. MY ANKLE BRACELET WOULD SHORT OUT.
WELL, I BETTER BE GOING. MY HOUSEBOY WILL WORRY...
REG, BE A DEAR AND TELL ME HOW TO GET HOME. MY ADDRESS IS ON MY BRACELET...
3058 "M" STREET, HUH?
THAT'S EASY! TAKE THREE RIGHTS AND A LEFT, GO UP TWO FLIGHTS, HOP OVER THE CHAIN-LINK FENCE, AND HIGHTAIL IT ACROSS THE RAIL YARDS...
I'M NOT ASKING THE RIGHT PERSON, AM I?
WHEN YOU GET TO THE RIVER, LASH TOGETHER SOME TIRES...

ANNOUNCEMENTS

RIPTON COMMUNITY COFFEE HOUSE: Melodious March. Saturday, March 7 at 7:30 p.m. Fipton Community House, Ripton. Singer-songwriter Wendy Beckerman performs original music for the nonprofit concert series. Open mike begins at 7:30 followed by the featured performers. Call ahead to reserve a spot for open mike. Refreshments available. Admission: $3.00. For more information: 388-1576.

Persephone's Journey, A Workshop for Women will explore the myth of Persephone as a model of healing and courage for survivors of incest and other forms of family violence. This workshop is a celebration of the courage of women's lives and the wisdom that comes from that journey. 10 a.m.-4p.m. Kirk Alumni Center, Route 30, Middlebury. $20 donation requested, scholarships available. Lunch will be provided and child care can be arranged. All proceeds will benefit Addison County Women In Crisis. To Register or for more information call (802) 388-4205.

HELP WANTED

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Editorial

Sifting through the detritus

It took the action of an arsonist for the state fire marshal to notice that Middlebury has for several years been in violation of a fire safety code prohibiting the placement of trash bins in residential hallways. Yet the marshal certainly wasted no time in issuing a mandate for the immediate removal of those trash bins — including recycling bins — in all dorms and on-campus houses last week.

The irony here is that Middlebury broke the law in the name of making this campus more environmentally sound. Last week in this space we lashed out at those who lack respect for their environment. Recycling was one way for students to learn this kind of respect. And it seemed to be working — the amount of trash recycled on campus has increased steadily each year since the program was instituted.

Yet because those trash bins represented for one person out of 2,000 an opportunity to practice his or her campfire-building technique, the remaining 1,999 of us are now forced to confine our trash to the tiny bins in our individual rooms. These make proper sorting nearly impossible and are not necessarily subject to regular disposal besides.

Quite frankly, the fire marshal's mandate stinks — both literally and figuratively. Perhaps it has occurred to a few of us, as we emptied our rooms of last weekend's bottles and several weeks' worth of newspapers and rejected rough drafts, that having trash bins in the hallways might be a fire hazard. That doesn't mean we all thought of tossing in a lighted match too. The arsonist is being given far too much credit for his or her ability to influence the average Middlebury student.

Rarely is such drastic action taken here as quickly as it was last weekend. Any kind of resolution will likely take much longer. No one seems to know whether recycling will resume in residential buildings. A committee has been formed to discuss the future of recycling on campus. But if the previous track record of such committees is any indication, the proposed enhanced commons system will be in place long before we see trash bins returned to our halls.

We deserve a second chance — now — to prove that we can and do respect our environment. Dispensing of a valuable recycling program because of the thoughtless actions of one person seems irrational. While compliance with the law is certainly essential, allowing students easy access to trash bins increases respect for property and respect for the environment. Students, administrators and the state must reach a compromise before all rationality is buried under the detritus of one person's irresponsible and careless action.

The Middlebury Campus

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Letters to the Editor

Dean requests that students set example of respect

I am writing in support of the ideas expressed in last week's editorial and to express my concern regarding events which occurred on campus last weekend and in the past few weeks. I have seen an increase in disrespectful behavior on campus, which has far exceeded that of the fall, and has also far deviated from the standards of this intellectual community.

In addition to the arson attempts in Kelly, there have been: pulled fire alarms in many campus buildings, fire extingguishers discharged in residential and campus buildings, urination and defecation in the halls of some residences and in McCullough, vomit in the bathrooms and hallways, assaults, fist fights, and disrespectful behavior towards student residential staff, as well as the security, health center and facilities management staffs.

There have also been serious incidents of insensitivity and intolerance to individuals and groups.

I believe that Middlebury is a better community than has been reflected with this behavior. Our judicial systems can work as a means to enforce accountability for unacceptable behavior. The members of the Dean of Students Office staff, security and the judical boards are following through with offenders that have either been identified or who have turned themselves in.

In the end, however, you as students are really the ones who can make a difference. You are responsible for the community in your residence hall and on campus. Your actions and example set the tone and atmosphere for those around you.

I urge you to treat others the way that you would like to be treated. Talk to your neighbors and hallmates. When you witness a disrespectful act, don't be silent, speak out. Act responsibly and respect each other.

You need to be willing to take a stand and let others know that this behavior is unacceptable to you as well. Individuals working together can make a difference. Your involvement, or lack of it, makes a difference.

Ann Craig Hanson
Dean of Students

Student expresses disatisfaction with 'attempts to assuage queers'

Donald Eggert '98

In last week's edition of The *Campus*, Richard Cornwall, Professor of Economics, responded to a poster hung in the Fitness Center which advertised an upcoming women's basketball game by using the phrase "Who you callin' a Pansy" to demonstrate the "bravery" of one of its players. Though meant as a joke, the use of "Pansy" was thought objectionable by Cornwall, who considers the term to be a "reiteration of a hateful, hurtful [homophobic] taunt." Cornwall asked that the makers of the poster and/or the Middlebury College women's basketball team take decisive and creative action to "blatantly atone for their homophobic utterances." He also called upon the administration to take a proactive stance toward the protection of its queer students, staff, and faculty, by coordinating homophobia workshops for the campus community.

This letter was productive in that it prompted the women's basketball team to publicly apologize for the poster by stating, "We did not and never would intend to offend anyone." (Perhaps someone learned from the U.S. Olympic Men's hockey team.) Dean Hanson also responded by meeting with MOQA (Middlebury Open Queer Alliance) advisor Kevin Moss, and two other members of the MOQA group to gauge the level of homophobia on campus and discuss other issues pertinent to the Middlebury queer community. However, I for one am not satisfied with either of these attempts to assuage the uppity queers. When Cornwall asked the women's basketball team to find a creative way to curb homophobia on campus as a means to rectify their short-sightedness, he did not have in mind a three-sentence apology in the *Campus* that neither acknowledged that internalized homophobia was at the root of their harmless joke, nor explained any plans to amend the situation. As for the Dean of Students Office, I have yet to see any public, proactive effort from the office as a whole, or any arm of the administration for that matter, to promote an educational effort to combat homophobia on this campus since I arrived here as a first-year student.

You may ask yourself why it is that queer people on this campus feel that they have the right

(see Eggert, page 9)

Irakly criticizes P.E. requirement

Community Contemplation
by
Irakly Areshidze '00

Yesterday I got a letter from Coach Bob Smith informing me that I have not fulfilled my Physical Education requirement — I still have one credit missing. Furthermore, according to the letter, if I did not fulfill this requirement by the end of my sophomore year (i.e. end of this semester), I would not be able to register for courses on MARS. This is a new rule — before "delinquent" students like myself had to pay a $50 fine. And of course no one cared. So they decided to get a bit strict on us. I think stopping people from registering a bit too much, but that is not the biggest problem that I had with the letter. What makes me wonder is the idea that a physical education requirement must be fulfilled by the end of the sophomore year, while all other requirements can wait till the end of a person's career here.

I have never seen a group of people as fit as my fellow Middlebury students. Where else do you see people running in the middle of a snowstorm? One of the most intriguing things about Midd when I first came to visit were the signs all over campus telling people to run counter to the traffic. Yet we have this P.E. requirement which makes absolutely no sense. I spend at least an hour in the gym every day. If one adds to that the 15 minutes that it takes to walk down there and the 15 minutes that it takes to walk back, I spend at least an hour and a half on my "physical well being." In addition, I ski at least one day every week. But I guess, according to our rules, I am not a physically fit person. To reach such a standard, I need to take some stupid aerobics course or be forced to go to the gym, and instead of doing my own workout, "learn" how to lift weights. Thank you, but I have enough things to do right now. We have this requirement and therefore I will finish it, but forcing me to do it by the end of this term — sorry, cannot do!

The most fascinating thing about this ridiculous P.E. requirement is that it seems to be much more important than the academic requirements (and I thought we were an academic school). We have very few academic requirements here — one needs to fulfill seven of the eight disciplines as well as three civilization courses. Yet none of these requirements needs to be fulfilled until the last semester of a students career at Middlebury. However, the physical education requirement must be fulfilled in the first four semesters here. Does that make any sense at all?

I can see two possible explanations for requiring us to fulfill the P.E. requirement early. One argument claims that after the sophomore year students will not have time to fulfill P.E. Well, the same can be said of academics. As students pick their majors and decide what kinds of classes they want to take, they may not have time to fulfill a science or an art requirement. The other argument claims that Midd students should become fit and continue to be fit while they are here and the P.E. requirement can help them get there. The idea that, for example, a ballroom dancing class, which I took this j-term, will make me more fit holds no ground. But even if it did, could we not say the same of academics. Should not all Midd students know something about Asia, Africa or Latin America before they decide to leave Middlebury and go to Paris. If we require students to fulfill P.E. so early, why not everything else?

Senior deems fire mandate totalitarian

DISCOURSES
Damjan de Krnjevic-Miskovic '98

The tradition of respecting a university's autonomy goes back to the High Middle Ages. It was even respected in Czarist Russia, to say nothing of democratic England, republican France, and of course, the United States of America. Even Milosevic's Serbia respects this tradition. It was only in the Soviet Union and in Hitlerite Germany that such privileges were trampled upon and ignored. In other words, only totalitarian regimes permitted themselves, in the name of the safety of the collective, to strictly enforce all sorts of rules, regulations and laws on the grounds of their respective Universities.

Admittedly, this long-standing tradition is often not entrenched into the laws of states. The State of Vermont's Fire Marshal, Richard Baldwin, does have the legal authority to enforce compliance with the Life Safety Code of Vermont. That is undisputed. He was driven to enforce certain sections of this Code in response to the arson in the New Dorms two weekends ago. But that is not the issue. Neither is the fact that in all probability, Mr. Baldwin does not give a damn about the principle of autonomy. Finally, the issue is not that he might not just be concerned for the safety of the College's students but also sees this incident and his efficient and prompt handling of it as an opportunity to impress his superiors.

Maybe the letter that was sent to Mr. Ed Sullivan by the Assistant Fire Marshall was an overreaction, analogous perhaps to the Dean of Students' office banning speech on the entire campus because two people got into an argument, on the pretext that this way there is much less of a probability that anyone will get into an argument. I don't know. It was not my decision to make, and I do not claim to know why Mr. Baldwin had the letter sent. What I do know is that Mr. Sullivan, the Safety Officer at the College, thinks that the demands put forth in the letter to eliminate the trash cans, the recycling bins and the posters on doors and walls in dormitories are sound. For him, whatever improves the safety of the students is good. And that's as far as he want to let his thoughts go. So does his boss, Mr. Corbin, whose secretary informed me that "that is the fire safety code and we do follow the fire safety code." End of story.

I think that they are missing the issue. They are failing to look at the big picture. They don't put themselves into the shoes of the students (the reason for the existence of the College and its bureaucracy). Perhaps it is the natural tendency of bureaucrats only to focus on their issue and only to work towards getting their issue implemented: that way, they feel that they have performed their duties in an efficient manner, which makes them sleep better at night.

This infamous letter, which the College is not letting students even look at, was served to Mr. Sullivan at around the noon hour on Friday last. It indicated that the College had 48 hours to comply with its demands or else the College would be subject to a unspecified daily fine. As a consequence, on Friday afternoon, a bunch of bureaucrats in the Service Building got together for a brainstorming session and decided that the best course of action was immediate compliance.

They called in the Facilities Management people to implement their decision; off they went, removing garbage cans and recycling bins from the halls, kitchens and bathrooms of dormitories, and posters from students' doors and common bulletin boards without exceptions, and without compassion. Sometimes the Facilities Management people went a little too far, e.g. tearing down posters of the Italian country-side from the Italian House common room, or homework assignments from the doors of professors in Le Chateau. Let us not forget that many of the posters that were torn down were from the Winter Carnival Committee asking us not to drink too much at their events. Ah yes, irony. But all this was not the fault of Facilities Management, they tell me, after all, they were just following orders.

This action had to be done immediately, before the end of the workday on Friday. Otherwise, they

(see Faculty ignores, page 8)

Vandals deserve bad karma for their actions

The recent rash of vandalism, both dorm damage and attacks upon vehicles, is a sad commentary on Middlebury College, to say the least. Pathetic better describes the individuals who derive unbounded pleasure from such activity. Unlike many regular contributors to The *Campus*, I am not the type to get worked up about too many things to the point of writing an editorial. A lot of editorials just ramble, but this one is good because it is a colorful display of personal attacks against nameless, faceless adversaries.

Tim Goad '99

I guess I am compelled to write because dorm damage is an issue that affects all of us on a number of levels, of which PIN bill charges are not the paramount concern. As a 21- year-old, mean-spirited, aggressive, beer drinking, water-pipe indulging male and fellow student, it may come as a surprise that I show concern in the first place. I say this because vandalism is commonly associated with the deviant sector of society of which I am a member. Vandalism, however, my friends, is a crime perpetrated by the most cowardly of our ranks. Admittedly, this is not the most p.c. way to express my feelings; I beg you to excuse the gross lack of compassion in my heart for these pathetic souls.

Interestingly enough, I used indulge in vandalism a bit as a juvenile, you know the formative years before you were expected to know better. The pranks that my boys and I used to pull were just that: pranks that did not jeopardize peoples' lives or damage any property. This krunk, as Conan O'Brien calls it, here at Midd is on a completely different level than what a 12- or 13-year-old kid does to pass the time.

The fire in the New Dorms over the past weekend was an absolute beauty. To whomever pulled it off, I complement you on your advanced analytical skills and high degree of stupidity. To whomever the krunk was who could not keep his or her hands out of the matches, I hope you got a giggle out of the fact that people could very well have died for your moment of glory. Whoooeee, what a knee-slapper!!! Really, you should pat yourself on the back for the utter originality and skill it must have taken. I am saying this because the people whose lives were jeopardized and belongings were ruined are not going to congratulate you. Just count yourself lucky that nobody was hurt. Moreover, count your blessings (you can count, right?) that nobody played a funny little prank on you. Enough of the personal attacks. I am sure that you have fragile feelings, and it is just not right for me to hurt them. Cowards need loving too, or so I have heard.

On a more refined level, let us now ponder what could have happened if a serious fire had resulted. First, consider the logistics of fire response at Middlebury College. The town of Middlebury is small and thus, due to financial considerations, has a volunteer fire department. My father is a professional firefighter in Colorado as his occupation. Response time for his department's arrival upon the scene is mandated at under five minutes from when the 911 call is received. I do not know what MFD's average response time is, but I am sure it is considerably longer due to the voluntary make-up of the force. In such emergency instances, seconds, not merely minutes, are the difference between life and death.

(see Goad, page 9)

Stratton refuses to take fire marshal's tyranny

hail from the CHIEF
Bryan Stratton '98

It was Sunday afternoon. I had just returned from a very enjoyable weekend at home, where I successfully avoided all Winter Carnival-related activities. My tax return came in, I bought a whole bunch of comic books, I DJed at the local strip club and I did three weeks' worth of laundry free of charge in my parents' basement.

And then I got back here to Club Midd, and all the posters were gone from my door. You must understand this: my door is sacred to me. It's where I put all my idiosyncrasies on display, from Marilyn Manson posters to an eerily-prophetic half-burned Fire Safety checklist card. And they were gone.

I opened the door and heard the crunch of laminated paper under my boot. There they were, lying in a heap, folded over on each other, mangled. Some of the corners were missing- well, not missing, per se. They were still on the door, evidence that whoever removed them was in a rush and didn't have the time to treat them as gently as I would have preferred.

I checked my phonemail and found out that this was done for my own good because someone has been lighting fires and my door might be the next target. I went on to the next several messages, most of which were from fellow students who were as outraged as I was.

If any of you bothered to read my column a few weeks ago, you will remember that I was talking about why I hate rules and regulations. Little did I think that I'd be returning to this topic so soon. My biggest complaint was (and is) that every law passed is an infringement on the collective rights of the society. Some of these rights, like the right to kill somebody, are quite justifiably taken away for the good of the entire populace. But some of them, well...

Let me say a few true things: The custodial staff and the college administration are not in any way to blame for the recent crackdown. This ruling comes from the state of Vermont via the fire marshal. Everyone here at the college who has put blood, sweat, and tears into trying to meet the outrageously immediate deadline set by the Fire Marshall has my thanks. Apparently, the college has not been in compliance with certain fire safety codes for a while now, and our arsonist friend (or friends) has suddenly thrown us into a state of emergency. The state's orders were clear: get into compliance now, or suffer cuts in government-provided funding and pay a huge fine.

But this doesn't mean I'm happy with the changes, by any means. By preventing students from placing posters and photographs on their doors, by banning posters and flyers in residence halls, and by removing public trash and recycling bins from the dorms, we have given the arsonist(s) the two things he, she, or they wanted most.

The first is attention. Whoever did this was making a very destructive, very public statement, not unlike The Unabomber or Timothy McVeigh. This person or persons had something to say and said it in a very dramatic way.

(see Stratton, page 9)

Students encouraged to dine at Dolci

By now, I suppose most of you have heard of or have been to the latest new option in dining experiences now offered on campus thanks to Middining Services — the student-run restaurant Dolci.

Jill Santopietro '98.5

It was an idea, not very big, not very different, but an idea. I used to toss it around as I sat staring over my Proctor tray or stumbled through the mass of students during the lines of the lunch rush. I used to complain about how I would lose all sense of hunger by the time I actually situated myself and set my bright orange tray down. Eating can become such a stressful process, that, by the time conversation sparks, everyone is too annoyed or tired to keep it going, or it gets filtered out by loud surrounding noises. I was imagining a better atmosphere for a meal, one calmer and more conducive to conversation. I imagined candles, delicious food, a dining experience that gives students a chance to meet and talk with new people. I was imagining, to some extent, Tavern on the Hill, a Middining Friday night option which has been a great success for quite some time. However, I thought it would be nice for students who wished to eat in this type of atmosphere to not have to organize a large group — a place where you could go, experience a restaurant style meal with a number of options and eat and converse with a number of people, some of whom might not be a part of your group of friends.

One day I saw the Round Table meeting announcement and finally decided to join them on a Wednesday evening and present my idea to the Middining staff. At first, I thought they'd chalk this idea off as crazy. Well, as it turned out, Peter Napolitano, head of Dining Services, and Cheryl Lacey liked the idea very much and suggested giving it a try. Surprised and shocked by their enthusiasm — never mind the fact that they wanted to start it as soon as possible — I explained to them that I knew a lot of students that loved to cook, and even some who were considering going to culinary school in the future, who would be willing to volunteer. "Volunteer?" Mr. Napolitano asked me, "We'll pay you guys." I couldn't hide my smile because that just made my job so much easier. Middining bought into the idea of Dolci as fervently as I had.

I guess this little personal story just goes to show that voicing your opinions can prove to be very worthwhile. Also, it proves that there are receptive groups on campus, like Middining, willing to listen and ready to help.

After a few meetings to get things squared away, the first Dolci dinner rolled around. Ten student cooks, six waitresses, two dishwashers, a very bubbly host and hostess, two Middlebury chefs, and the usual seventy-two ticket holders meet each Friday for a night of fine dining.

The turnout for student chefs, wait staff and even dishwashers blew me away. Now we have a total staff of about 35 students and the numbers are growing. So far it has been a blast for us, spending Thursdays and Fridays whipping up new concoctions in a great kitchen, supervised by Middining chefs including Chateau head chef Richard, Chef Tony, and Chef Maurice. We throw on a little music and get to work. When the

(see Students, page 8)

U.S. must pressure Israel for change

Kirby Salerno '98

As Clinton spoke live on national television two weeks ago to explain his Iraq policy to the American people, only two Arab states, Kuwait and Oman, supported the U.S. plan to bomb Iraq. Indeed, Saudi Arabia refuses to permit U.S. warplanes to launch strikes from its bases. This is a glaring contrast to the coalition of Arab states assembled by the Bush/Cheney/Powell team in anticipation of the Gulf War.

The paucity of support from Arab leaders in the current crisis results from continued unequivocal U.S. backing of Israel, despite Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's sluggish efforts at reconciliation with P.L.O. leader Yasser Arafat. If the U.S. wishes to further its foreign policy objective of a stable Middle East, it must apply substantial pressure on Israel.

The source of popular Arab discontent with the United States is our unyielding, unconditional, massive economic and military aid to Israel. Our "buffer" in the Middle East annually receives approximately $2 billion in military and economic support, more than twice as much as Egypt, the number two recipient of U.S. aid. This aid continues despite insufficient action by Netanyahu to achieve a peaceful settlement with the Palestinians. Those Arabs, who may have been willing to give Israel the benefit-of-the-doubt when former Prime Minister Rabin worked admirably towards peace before his assassination, are now angry and disillusioned with Netanyahu's hostility. And, as Israel's best friend, the U.S. is stricken with guilt by association and demonized by the Arab world.

For example, recently 600 students at the University of Cairo demonstrated their opposition to U.S. intentions to bomb Iraq, forcing one of America's staunchest allies in the Arab community, Egypt's President Mubarek, into an uncomfortable position. With public opinion decidedly anti-U.S., Murbarek cannot publicly support the United States' position even though he favors a weakened Saddam Hussein. Leaders throughout the Middle East face a similar dilemma, obligating Clinton to take action without the crucial strategic and political support he needs.

In 1990, a skillful American foreign policy team crafted an effective partnership with key Arab countries. This coalition proved invaluable in discrediting Saddam Hussein and winning international backing for a U.S.-led military action against Iraq. Bush's tough stance on Israel before the Gulf War garnered support among the Arab community. For instance, the administration voted against Israel in approval of a UN Security Resolution condemning the shooting deaths of Palestinian rioters in October of 1990. In addition, Bush threatened to withhold aid to help resettle 1 million anticipated Soviet Jewish immigrants if previous aid monies were not used more effectively by Shamir's Likud government. These actions, while straining relations between strong allies, gave the Bush administration credibility in the Middle East.

The consequence of unconditional U.S. support for Netanyahu's government is exemplified in the current stand-off with Iraq. The Clinton administration's diplomatic nudging of Netanyahu has been ineffective. In order to avoid future crises and ensure that we can build coalitions to condemn and punish rogue, terrorist states such as Iraq, Washington should threaten to severely curtail Israeli aid if real progress is not achieved in the Israel-Palestine peace process.

Such a policy involves minimal risk because Israel depends heavily on U.S. support and has no viable alternative ally. In short, the U.S. should not abandon its strategic partnership with Israel — domestic politics would not allow this anyway — but Clinton should emulate his predecessor and take decisive, tough steps to prove to the Arab community that the U.S. is committed not just to Israel, but to the general cause of peace in the entire region.

Students encouraged to try the delicious food at Dolci

(continued from page 7)

guests arrive, we set up the kitchen like any restaurant does and prepare ourselves for the rush of orders to come.

Every once in a while, we peek our heads out to watch the faces of our diners gobble up Greg Reynolds' chocolate mousse or Dave Johnson's stuffed mushrooms as they sit in a relaxed, dimly-lit atmosphere, listening to a bit of jazz music.

Richard O'Donohue, head Middlebury chef, provides us with helpful hints, cooks along with us, and makes sure we don't hurt ourselves. Richard and Tony, I might add, are the two most laid-back chefs. They survived the first somewhat chaotic dinners, watching us run around like the mad Swedish Chef on "The Muppet Show."

Richard told me that he enjoys working with us and loves the fact that so many students are interested in culinary arts. Wouldn't it be cool if you could enjoy our liberal arts education and get a culinary degree or minor from Middlebury College at the same time?

Many of the students working for Dolci are interested in owning their own restaurants someday. Others are aspiring waitresses (Laurie), while some of us just enjoy cooking and miss not having access to a fully stocked kitchen. Still others just love to throw good parties (Katie). And a good party it will be.

Now we even have live entertainment planned, from magicians to musicians. According to the comment cards, our menu, created by the students, has offered numerous tasty choices. One student wrote "my best dining experience ever at Middlebury."

Some questions have come up, too. One student asked, "One question, can you cater my wedding-if it ever happens?" Others explain that Dolci is "a great alternative; no negative comments at all, A+." Right now, the student chefs are working on new ideas and menu changes.

Dolci is in its fifth week and going strong. Free tickets are being handed out on a first come first serve basis, on Wednesday nights at 6 p.m., just at the entrance near the swipers at Proctor. Remember when you come to Dolci, to bring your ID. We need to have everyone swipe if we want to keep it going.

Will it continue next year? Perhaps. Hopefully. The continuation of Dolci does depend on student interest and student help, on the success of the Grille currently under construction in McCullough and whether Middining will be so kind to continue sponsoring us.

Right now it's looking good. Most of our staff are seniors now, so we really could use some underclass interest. Give me, Jill Santopietro, a call at x6082 if you might be interested in cooking or waiting next year.

In the meantime, get your tickets (no more than two given out per person). Enjoy the shrimp cocktail, prime rib, and pastas. Bring your friends, your professors, your family.

Thanks Middining, for everything!

Dolci Schedule

(Due to the fact that some Tavern on the Hills dinners, booked long in advance, need to be honored, Dolci will not be held on Friday, March 6th.)

March 13 — Dolci open
March 20- 27 — Spring Break
April 3 — Tavern on the Hill
April 10 — Dolci open
April 17 — Senior Night at Dolci
April 24 — Dolci open
May 8 — Last night of Dolci for the year!!!

Senior deems fire mandate totalitarian

(continued from page 7)

would have had to pay all these people double overtime to come in on Saturday to do it. That's a lot of money. Just remember that on Parents' Weekends, the custodial staff are in most dorms bright and early Sunday, to ensure that the parents don't see or smell the remains of drunkenness. That expense does not seem to matter as much somehow: spending money to maintain appearances is okay, but spending money to humanize the process of compliance is not.

So the real issue is the college's way of doing things. This place is being run more and more like a corporation and less and less like an academic institution. We get a letter and the first thing we think about is how to comply as quickly as possible so as to avoid paying a fine and to avoid any trouble from the state. The handling of this incident makes it apparent to me that for some bureaucrats at this college, it is more important to retain good relations with the state than it is to retain good relations with the student body.

The way the decision was reached is much closer to the way it would have been done at say, IBM in Burlington. What an academic institution should have done, especially one with as much money in the bank as we have, is another matter. The college should have first called its lawyers. Maybe they could have contributed to the deliberation; maybe not. Maybe they would have raised the issue of autonomy; maybe not. But we'll never know because no one from this college called our lawyers. As of today, they still don't even know about the letter or about the demands of the fire marshal: "We have not contacted the college's lawyers as it relates to the fire marshal and Department of Labor's directive. [...] It's not the type of thing that we would normally go to our lawyers with [...]," says Tom Corbin. Well, if getting served with a threatening letter from the state is not an issue to go to the lawyers about, I don't know what is.

Our first instinct was to comply in the most cost-efficient manner possible. This is most troubling to me. When I raised the issue of autonomy with a number of bureaucrats at this college, they just shrugged or gave me a funny look. By their reactions, I infer that this issue was not even considered in the deliberations which led up to the decision to call in Facilities Management to remove the arson-inspiring objects. Perhaps that was because they gave themselves so little time. Perhaps it was something else.This is not simply an administrative matter. Rather, it is a matter of principle. If principles still matter anywhere, they should matter on college campuses, where we students are supposed to be taught how to think for ourselves, and not how best to implement or spin a given directive or policy. What sort of a lesson will students draw from this?

Arguably, the college went too far, and arguably the fire marshal's office went too far. In the grand scheme of things, this is not that big of a deal. Solutions will be found: inspectors will become convinced that a looser interpretation of certain provisions of the Vermont Life Safety Code is the way to go, recycling will begin again in a new form, and maybe we'll even find a way to hang up posters in the hallways again. But it will be exceedingly difficult, at least for me, to regain the sort of trust that I, as a student, had in the ability of those that usually make decisions which affect me directly to make the right decisions. I think they sold us out while at the same time trying to look out for us. I still don't know what it all means, but it troubles me greatly.

Student Activities thanks the Middlebury community for help with Winter Carnival

Literally thousands and thousands of volunteer hours, most of which are behind the scenes and never observed, contribute to putting on Middlebury Colleges Winter Carnival. This year was the seventy-fifth carnival for the College and the sixty-seventh with races at the Snow Bowl. Middlebury skiers placed third, overall.

Thanks go to so many students, staff, and faculty, as well as to many volunteers from local communities. Without their help, neither the races nor the social events could happen as they do. Special thanks go to the coaches, Terry Aldrich & Patty Ross-Tran (nordic) and Mark Smith & Kate Webber (alpine), to the Snow Bowl staff led by Peter Mackey, and to the staff at the Rikert Ski Touring Center led by John Rubright.

Many thanks to Susan Veguez, who has volunteered to direct the Ice Show for twenty-five years, and to MariAnn Osborne for taking on that role. A big "thank you" also to Campus Security, Custodial Services, Facilities Management, and MiddDining for their assistance and support throughout all the events.

Finally, to all the student volunteers, and especially to Stephanie Crumb '00, Chair of the Winter Sports Committee; Melissa Preussing '99, Chair of the Social Committee; and Becky Walldroff '98, the Administrative Head of Winter Carnival, overall, a very big THANK YOU and CONGRATULATIONS for a job very well done.

Last year the ski team coaches began voting for "best carnival of the year." We are proud to share that, for the second year in a row, Middlebury College was honored as having the best carnival on the circuit! Thanks to each and everyone of you who made this possible.

While much of Winter Carnival is entertaining and fun, there are also some concerns to share. The Winter Carnival Committee has worked hard over the past few years to decrease the number of alcohol-related incidents through raising awareness of the effects of alcohol and encouraging a sense of watching out for each other. Despite these efforts, serious infractions continue to scar the weekend. As a result, questions have again been raised this year as to whether or not the College should continue to maintain the three-day weekend tradition of Winter Carnival.

To all of you who have a great time and uphold expected standards of community behavior (and we include and highlight the social houses during this past weekend, as well as hundreds of individual students), we thank you for your support of the Winter Carnival events and for your respect to one another on campus.

Francy Magee, Associate Director of Student Activities

Tiffany Sargent, Director of Student Activities

Eggert encourages education to facilitate demise of homophobia

(continued from page 6)

to ask institutions, such as the Dean's Office and the women's basketball team, to go out of their way to do something for us.

The answer is very simple: it is no longer effective to report, comment,or complain about homophobia and its violent effects on this campus as a repeatedly ridiculed minority population in this community, we must now demand action.

It is not the responsibility of queer students, faculty, and staff to educate the entire campus about how homophobia is discrimination, hate, suicide, and murder.

We all have papers to write, lectures to prepare, and jobs to do. Where do queer people on this campus turn for something more than passive tolerance? Where are our advocates, our allies, our educators, our administrators, and our student leaders?

When queer people such as myself and Mr. Cornwall write about homophobic attacks against gay people on this campus, many people often wonder why they should care, considering that: (1) they are not gay, lesbian, bisexual, or transgender themselves; (2) they don't know anyone here who is queer; (3) they aren't homophobic and didn't participate in any homophobic attacks; and/or (4) they did do something homophobic but don't see how it really hurt anyone or anyone they care about.Why should YOU care? Consider the impact of the following "harmless" homophobia that queer people at Middlebury have endured this year:

When you destroyed the closet that the MOQA group erected on the McCullough Green for National Coming Out Week last October, five prospective students saw the damage, realized that Middlebury was a hostile environment in which to be a student and decided to go college elsewhere.

Ten straight first-year students who had previously never heard of Coming Out Week or MOQA decided that going to a MOQA meeting and becoming allies to their gay classmates wouldn't be a good idea.

Five guys in Hepburn wrote profanity on the door of a lesbian student couple's dorm room. Four tenured lesbian professors decided not to come out to their students, fearing that their department colleagues' lack of response to the vandalism signified a lack of support for being open about one's identity in the classroom. Twenty students transferred because they feel threatened and didn't know which professors and administrators they could turn to for help.

The SGA President asked President McCardell to do everything in his power to respond to the incident, and when McCardell did nothing, one hundred people remembered that the administration rarely listens to well-intentioned requests from the SGA, fifteen decide not to run for student government next term, and all one hundred did not vote in the recent election.

Dean Hanson wrote a two-paragraph letter to The *Campus* that fails to explain what the deans learned from the incident or what they plan to do to educate the campus about homophobia.

Out In The Mountains, a statewide monthly gay newspaper, reports that hate-vandalism and homophobia are on the rise on Vermont college campuses and that the Middlebury College administration has the worst reputation in the state for dealing with homophobic attacks. The paper applauds the responses of administrators at two conservative Catholic colleges which experienced similar injustices.

Second, the MOQA posters that you and your friends pulled down in Hadley advertised a confidential support meeting that a closeted gay friend of yours never found out about. He got really nervous when you made jokes in the mailroom. He thought that you might find out that he was gay and reject him so he helped you throw a gay kid from Middlebury Union High School in a snow bank.

The next day when you teased him for not hooking up with that "cute chick" that he met at the Tavern last week, he got nervous again and drank a couple of six-packs to forget that he was gay.

He went out to a party that night and found that chick. When she didn't want to go home with him, he raped her in the graveyard next to the tennis courts.

He withdrew for a semester and got very depressed about how he hurt that woman. You heard from him once in awhile over email. He realized that he hated himself and that lie he had been living a lie. He lost hope that you would understand.

A week before he was supposed to come back for J-term, you find out that he hung himself in his parents' garage. They won't tell you what the suicide note said.

Homophobia affects everyone. It won't go away because of apologies in The *Campus* or meetings with students. If you care at all about your classmates, professors, and college staff members, if you care about anyone besides yourself, then you will educate yourself about what homophobia is and how it marginalizes, silences, and kills.

Hate speech, homophobic vandalism (including pulling down posters), and inaction among the administration will not be tolerated anymore. We demand action. SILENCE=VIOLENCE.

Goad suggests students act like adults

(continued from page 7)

Picture this: the noisy, bothersome fire alarm goes off for about the third time in three days. All of the previous alarms have been bogus, so you figure why get up at 3 AM to face the sweet music, flashing lights, and crisp outdoors. Usually it is just some inebriated prankster pulling an alarm, so you figure "krunk it, I'm getting some z's." A few minutes pass, lets just say five, and you smell smoke that is not stuffy or skunky. You bolt out of bed for mixed reasons, ranging from fight or flight to "Smokey the Bear" heroism. Your sprinklers go off, so you know this is for real. You decide to get the hell out, and, by luck or Providence, you do not go up in flames. All of your stuff, however, was not so lucky, with water damage being the least and incineration being the most damaging. It's all good though, we all have a sense of humor, right? I just get the giggles when I hear stories about people dying in their beds because of smoke inhalation and consequent incineration. Hot damn, that is a mofo funny joke by any standard.

The above portrayal can be taken as rather sensational. Sadly, though, it happens everyday, both by accident and arson. Arsonists, like drunk drivers, are usually not the ones who are maimed by their "momentary lapses of reason." Like drunk drivers, arsonists are gutless and usually find a way to portray themselves as poor, disadvantaged victims when they get caught. Sorry, but I have a hard time buying that crap when people's lives are at stake.

The risk to life in this instance overshadows the financial implications. A quick disclaimer on my part: if the fire was caused by accident, such as a cigarette in a trash can, I take back any insinuations that the guilty party is a coward. If this is the case, the person in question is not a coward, just stupid. Common sense, however, is just not as common as you think.

The perpetrators of the other dorm damage and vandalism around campus in recent weeks belong to the same Brotherhood of Cowards as our friend, Beavis, of New Dorm notoriety. A few friends of mine have had their cars damaged, ranging from windows being shattered to a potpourri of stuff being put into an exhaust system, thus ruining it. Just like Mom and Dad used to say: all fun and games until somebody gets hurt. You may take that literally or to mean "until property gets damaged." I must be a bitter or unhappy person because I find it hard to respect people who operate in the cover of darkness to address their issues against either people or property. It is always a fun, however, to catch a coward in the act. Like the one time my friends and I caught this punk who liked to break my mom's car windows and take her purse. Nothing like a boot party and game of "tibia baseball" on a clear June evening. Callous, maybe; fun, definitely. I guess my lack of sympathy arises from my conviction that if you live by the sword, well you die by the sword as well.

My days of juvenile delinquency ended about seven years ago. I did this crazy thing that some people here still have not quite done: I grew up. Growing up does not entail driving a Caprice Classic Wagon and attending AARP meetings by any means. I still have lots of fun in socially deviant ways; however, they are ways that do not threaten people's safety, property, or general feeling of security, except my own, of course. I wish I still enjoyed breaking windows, stealing candy out of vending machines, or huffing on a fire extinguisher. I guess the giddy joy that I derived from those activities was a casualty of graduating junior high. I hate to say it, but it would be nice if people here started acting like they were young adults and not pesky 13 year-olds ravaging the neighborhood. You know, what your sister, mother, or grandmother, used to tell you: act your age.

As cynical as this letter may sound, I still do have faith in my fellow students here at Midd. To rat a friend out or not is a difficult question, and I have gone both ways in practice. I have taken the fall for those whom I knew were down for me in the same way, and ratted out those who were rats themselves. My experiences, though, have little relevancy to what has happened in the past few weeks, for I never did anything so utterly moronic as to set a building on fire or bust car windows. If I had been that stupid and one of my friends had ratted me out, I would have been thankful to that person in the long-run. It is better to get caught by the cops than your victims.

Whoever the kiddies are who routinely get their kicks from dorm damage, I would just like to remind them about a thing called karma. To the students here, let us play a funny little gag on these idiots and stick them with the damage charges. Then they can see that what goes around really does come around to bite you in the a**. I encourage you to do the right thing. If you know anything about any property damage here on campus or off, call Security.

Stratton practices civil disobedience against mandate

(continued from page 7)

Unfortunately, since this person (or persons) didn't have the courage to take responsibility for setting the fires and didn't have the intelligence to express his/her/their frustration in a more creative fashion, we have no idea what this statement might be. And so, we live with a certain degree of fear and apprehension that this person or persons might be literally living right down the hall, with lighter in hand, ready to do it again.

And this brings me to my second point. We have also fulfilled the second wish of the Mad Arsonist(s): we now see ourselves as victims. We haven't caught the responsible parties, so we sacrifice our simple rights of expression, advertising, and convenient garbage disposal in the hopes that no more fires will be set and we can one again return to our happy, sheltered style of community living. To this, all I have to say is: find a Polish person born before 1930, and ask him how well appeasement works.

"Oh boy," you say, "he's brought Hitler into it. He's making too big a deal out of this." No, I'm not. Cataclysmic evil does not exist. You don't just wake up one morning and find your state overrun by bloodthirsty Germans, or Russians, or Iraqis, or whoever the villain-of-the-era might be. It's the combination of a series of small concessions and momentum, until the beast gets out of control and the impossibly horrendous becomes the painfully realistic. To put it another way: we're treating a symptom of the problem, and not the problem itself. The problem is not that flammable material exists (or, I should say, existed) in our dorms. The problem is that some a**hole set fire to it. To ban posters, photos, recycling bins, etc. just because someone's got a book of matches, and isn't afraid to use it, is just stupid. It smacks of desperation on the part of those trying to resolve the situation, an attempt to assert some sort of control over a situation which is completely out of their control.

Don't misunderstand me. I have nothing but the utmost respect for the officers investigating the arson, and I fully applaud every attempt they've made to secure the campus and get to the bottom of this. The Sunday after the Kelly fires, Officer Sweet of the Middlebury Police Department very generously gave an hour of his time to address the SGA General Assembly and answer our questions, assuring us that the town and state were doing everything in their power to catch the wrongdoer(s) and bring him/her/them to justice. In the greatest blunder of my short political career, I fear that I might have unintentionally offended him by wearing a shirt which advertised the band "Pig" to the meeting, but he was polite, helpful, and reassuring despite my poor fashion sense.

He's a good person. Anyone who devotes the majority of his or her life to trying to make the world a better, safer place is a good person. But there's a difference between safety and shelter. I don't want to live in a world where all the corners are rounded off the tables. If a masked person was haunting the stairwells of Hepburn and pushing students down three flights of stairs, I wouldn't want my right to climb stairs taken away.

This is an imperfect world, filled with a million tiny dangers. We, as a community, must draw a line somewhere and determine what is an acceptable level of risk in order to keep our freedoms. We must recognize the difference between keeping our campus safe and keeping it sheltered. We must not live in fear and give frustrated sociopaths the satisfaction of seeing us cower.

On my door is a plain piece of white paper which reads: "This is an act of protest, protected by my First Amendment right to freedom of speech." It's against the law now, and it will probably be taken down as soon as the custodial staff rolls through again. But I'll put another back up as soon as they leave. I'll probably get into some sort of trouble over this. Maybe the Mad Arsonist(s) will decide to pay me a visit and set my door on fire. But I refuse to be a victim. I would like to believe that we are not a campus of victims, and I hope to see a lot more of those signs up on your doors. Twisted Sister said it best: "We're not gonna take it."

Available only through hard work and perseverance...

Yeah Baby **Free Time** No Fat

Spend It Well My

An Inalienable Right

Goes well with Parrot Bay

You Know You Want It

It's Yours

Wasted

Damn Fine

Regretably Fleeting

Gone is the innocence of childhood, when jobs were for parents and kitchen utensils were bath toys. Today we take showers and owe our time to THE MAN. We aren't allowed to rest our minds and drift through an inner-space; to paraphrase Fitzgerald, we are moving forward into the current of adulthood while beating back ceaselessly into our carefree pasts. But somehow, blips of free time do arise in the hectic present. How will you spend it? How should you spend it? In this issue, **In Depth** dives deep to probe what Middlebury students do between classes. We reveal details in the lives of the obsessive overacheivers who always show you up; that sloth who lives down the hall; the kid who has never done homework; and the altruists who make this world better.

Motivational Deficit Syndrome renders afflicted socially inept

By Jonathan Reiber
Staff Writer

The alarm goes off at nine and I have economics at ten. Do I get out of bed? Nah, wait until nine forty-five, crawl out of bed and don't shower. Class goes by like a dream, my attention wanders — something about inflation in the nineties — snooze. I step out of Warner Hemicycle and practically fall down the stairs, not yet awake. I must make it to. Proctor, must sleep, must eat, must sleep . . . can't think, shouldn't think . . . last night, too drunk to remember . . .

Mmmm, eat a lot at Proctor, gorge myself on doughnuts and macaroni and cheese, yum. . . the fat building up in my stomach is so delicious, but so heavy. I need a nap, but I must wake up by noon because I have "shake 'n bake" some time this afternoon — but when? Do I even have a book for class? Do I have any homework? Do I even own a pen? Pencil? Do I have half a brain? Ah, I am an artist; I do whatever I like. These core requirements are a pain though. I crawl back to New Dorms and fall into a deep sleep.

Oh, it's a beautiful day outside! How nice, I could go cross-country skiing. If I were somebody else I would! Ha! I'd rather sit in my room and take bong hits and watch TV., maybe a nice intellectual film like, oh, say, Star Wars! Yum, oops, I spilled some macaroni and cheese on my pant leg, will I clean it up?. Nah, I'll just call mom and have her send me some new pants, yeah, that's industrious. Wait, what does industrious mean? Wasn't that in econ. this morning? Or was that industry? Need sleep, can't function. .Thank goodness it's Friday!

My phone rings and wakes me from sleep. Darth Vader is strangling someone on TV. I answer the phone, groggy and deluded. It's the comptrollers office telling me that I haven't paid my PIN bill in two months. It's over three hundred dollars, not including books. Yeah, maybe I went to the Crest Room too many times, but, it's good food, nice fat, other people cooked it for me. Fried chicken, yum. Should I get a job to pay my PIN bill? Hmmm, nah, I'll have mom pay my bill, she doesn't mind. Should I do my work for econ? Nah, I'll just copy the answers from the hot girl next to me during the exam. Going back to sleep is too easy. Maybe I'll wake up before dinner, maybe not.

What's that? A fire down the hall? I don't wanna get out of bed, no, someone else will put it out, yeah, I can just lie here and sleep. What? My roommate is under suspicion for arson? Ah, forget it, just let me go to sleep.

.12:45 p.m. Saturday. Should I roll out of bed and go to Proctor? Nah, I'll just order pizza sticks and chill out in front of the television. Maybe I'll take a nap, it's been a long week.

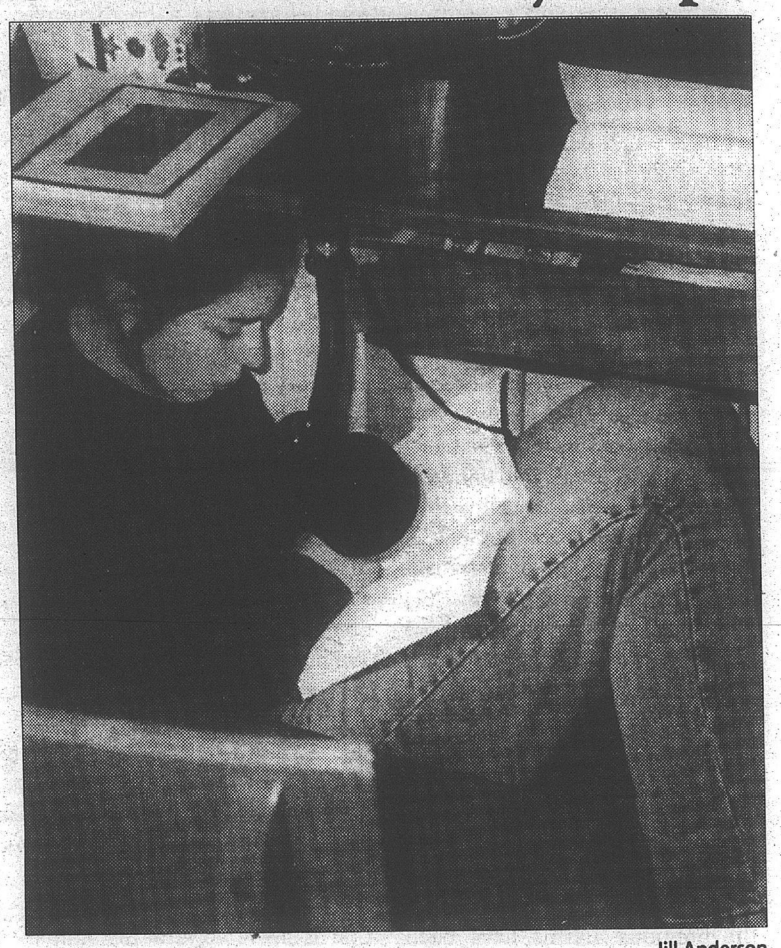
I'm in this play next weekend — God, I love to act. It's so much fun. Besides my production, what else do I have for classes? Hmm, oh yeah, conversational Spanish 101, pass/fail, gosh, I hope I don't fail. . .hmm, maybe I'll have my girlfriend over for some cheap and meaningless fun. Nah, I like lying in bed all day, and she's boring . Whose room is this? Oh yeah, it's my room. What happened to all of my furniture? Could it be burned? Damn, wait, no — it's not burned, it's just that my clothes have covered everything, and there's a thin layer of dust over the whole room. Darn, I wanted to collect insurance money. Maybe I'll burn my own clothes, then I could pay my PIN bill, then I could by some new porn movies. No, that's too much effort. Should I clean the room? That's a dumb idea. Even more effort.

Sunday morning, the phone wakes me up again, it's the deans, they mention something about social probation, but I didn't catch all of it, hung up by accident.. I think there are some birds living in my room. There's this white stuff all of the floor and I keep finding feathers in my bed, maybe I could kill them and eat them for dinner--too much effort. What's that smell? Oh, God, my underwear has changed color again, should I change it? Nah. Rehearsal tonight, 9 p.m., maybe I'll make it. The director sucks anyway; she has no idea about what my art is all about

I think, but I'm not sure, that I slept through my econ exam. That's kind of bad, isn't it? What's this letter on my bed? Tuition? How much has the annual tuition fee gotten up to? Ah, no worries, my mom will pay for it.

Hey, I just realized something. I can act when I get out of college and not worry about money! You see, I have this trust fund that my dead grandmother set up for me, isn't that nice? Oh, terrific, that's great, maybe I'll start my own theater company, nah, too much effort, I don't really like working with other people any way. I'm not an exhibitionist, it's more than attention for me, it's all about the pains of life, taxes, arguments, love, that's what art is, that's what my life is. I feel strife. I feel pain. I am affected, I have angst. Why did I get pannned in the reviews? Was I not real enough? Maybe I'll write a play. Nah, go back to sleep. Maybe I should major in econ, yeah, then I could just invest my money and watch it grow grow grow, I wouldn't have to do anything.

Maybe I'll just sleep through college and not pay any attention to the outside world. Maybe I'll become a ski bum. Wait, what am I already doing? What are we all doing? I am lying to myself. I must get up and do something! I'll do it tomorrow.



Jill Anderson

Julie Russell '01 avoids spending energy by holing up under her desk.

Work for free – practice benevolence and altruism

By Jen LaBrecque
Staff Writer

Not having a car, I don't drive around Addison County too much. I'm stuck on several hundred acres of land. It can be easy to forget that a community exists out there, a community that is not Middlebury College. But because of my involvement with Volunteer Services I've gotten myself involved with a community that isn't just the college, but the town as well. Even if Middlebury isn't a large urban center, there are plenty of opportunities to help.

Because we aren't in a heavily populated area, I've found that sometimes you have to dig deep to find an organization you're interested in that also needs your help. But I've also found that the town of Middlebury has some amazing organizations and amazing individuals, and that in some cases a lasting tie exists between the two.

Lynette Denney, a blind woman in town, has had students come and read to her for the last ten years. Butch Vamo, a man with cerebral palsy, has received student support for more than twenty years. Students have helped Vamo with physical therapy and tutored him. Both Denney and Vamo are invited each year to participate at the activities fair, which is to me one of the best examples of how a community and a college can help one another

Along with helping these two people, Middlebury has other opportunities to help someone out on an individual basis. In the Volunteer Resources Guide, produced annually by the Student Activities Office, there are forty or more local organizations that welcome volunteers.

Community Friends, which pairs a student with either a kid from Addison county or with someone who is mentally disabled, is one such program. There is also the Bridges program, where Middlebury students tutor high schoolers.

Beyond just individuals who need volunteers there are also organizations in Middlebury where Middlebury students have given their time to help. The Parent/Child Center, an organization that provides support to teenage parents, has students who come in and volunteer at their daycare program.

Porter Nursing Home and Project Independence, Inc. have students who visit with their elderly residents and play cards or do crafts with them Addison County Community Action Group, an organization that helps bring support to residents all across Addison County, often has opportunities for student volunteers such as helping to build a wheelchair ramp, or clearing out an old house.

Karu Kozuma

First-year students participated in Volunteer Preview during orientation.

I can't speak for other volunteers at Middlebury, but my volunteering and my communication with volunteer organizations in town have led me to feel that I have a connection to more than just the college. I am a part of the community where I'm located.

In giving time and effort, Middlebury students continue to help create that connection between the college and the community. They should not be two distinct entities.

Life of leisure mysteriously eludes overacheiving first-year

By Michael Hoyer
Staff Writer

8:34 a.m. For me, days seem to begin in one of two ways: EASILY or PAINFULLY. Unfortunately, this gray morning falls into the latter category.

Sleep still clogs the paths my brain waves should be traveling, keeping me from clearly understanding my current position. I am sprawled out on the floor, lying on yesterday's clothes and the Pixies' "Planet of Sound" is shaking my room mercilessly. As reality settles and the whirling confusion of an all-too-sudden waking process passes, I reach quickly (well, as quickly as a semi-sleep-drugged person can reach) to sink the volume before the bass pounds my chest in or wakes my neighbor into dangerous discontent.

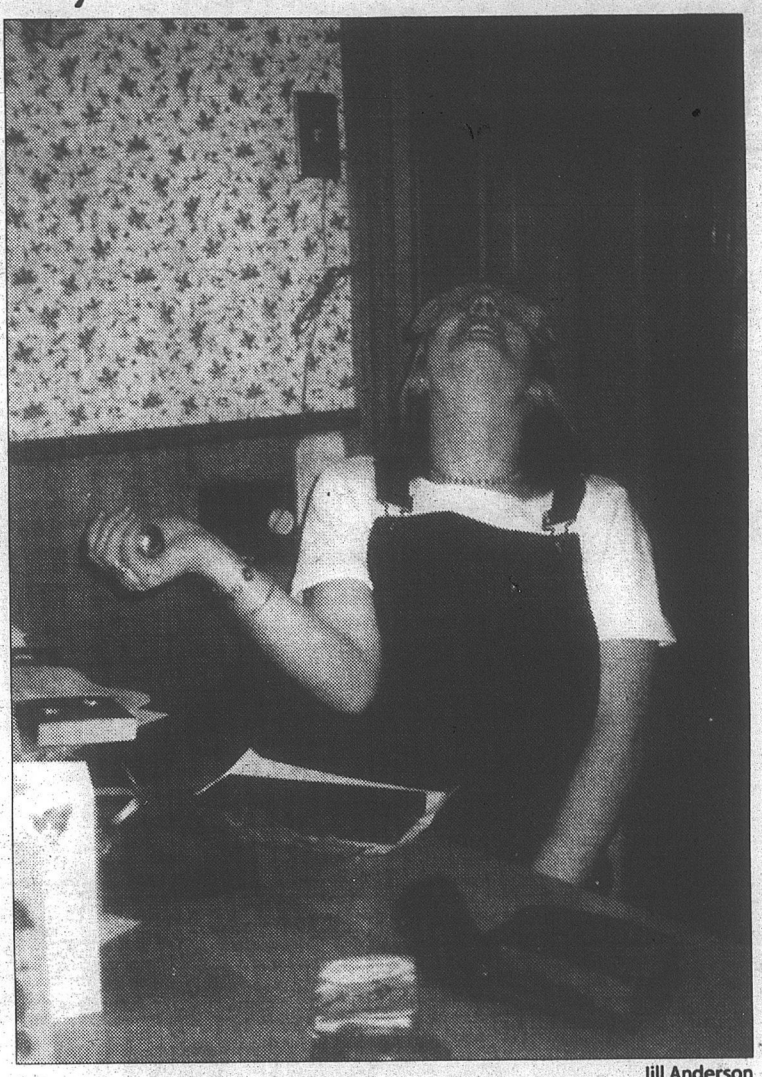
My intentions of rising with sufficient time for the whole "morning ritual" are good but the element of punctuality never made it past blueprint stage. Sleep-deprivation is no doubt the culprit. Nothing helps. Beeping alarm clocks drive me nuts, but even they only occasionally drag me from the depths of dreaming. Hence, my most recent experiment — let's just say it involves really loud music and the idea that I might be able to scare myself into action. I just end up on the floor in confusion.

10:39 a.m. Class is about to start. I've been working diligently since my recovery from the mentally-scarring morning music massacre and am still twenty pages from the end of Book 11 of Plato's "Republic." Not a healthy place to be twenty minutes before class. Between yesterday's classes, wrapping up the valentine's tree planting project, piano practice, an extra long Mountain Club dinner meeting (which I ran to from a practice room where I had been trying to compose a few measures of my string quartet) and a pottery class, Plato had taken a rain check. Forecast for today's schedule: no foreseeable free time, stress expected with the guarantee of another late night,

12:20 p.m. Why is it that I have to eat lunch in Proctor exactly when half the school has to eat lunch in Proctor? Unavoidable. So, here's today's game plan: no tray, a fast hummus sandwich on wheat with cheddar, sprouts, tomatoes, and a little mayonnaise (always a bad idea because the spoon has already been dropped into its neighbor, Yellow Mustard) and two glasses of water — that's all I can carry. I hope that rambling sentence gives you the impression of entering the battleground of Proctor just past the witching hour. The lunch experience is best compared to climbing a mountain with a broken leg; the level of frustration equaling that one would feel if attempting to read (insert book title) in the dark of a rowdy concert standing in the third row (Mosh Pit Central). Craziness.

Between yesterday's classes, wrapping up the valentine's tree planting project, piano practice, an extra long Mountain Club dinner meeting, composing a few measures of my string quartet, and pottery class, Plato had taken a rain check.

The chaos helps me finish my sandwich hurriedly and I slip out past the pit of trays (an orange line on the floor along the wall waiting for a space to travel into the humid abyss of wasted food, super-sized washers, and bad eighties music we all miss sometimes... until we hear it again), grab my backpack, and head for Twilight. I relish those in-between minutes of the day. The transitions, the breathers, whatever you want to call them, they're nice.



Jill Anderson
Susan Angst '01 meditates as relief from her hectic first-year schedule.

Process, moving from one thing to the next and checking out the scenery along the way. This semester, the distance I cover during these in-between moments is great and the time period short; a pressure which steals their relaxing quality. My class/life schedule moves me between three of the farthest points of campus: Twilight Hall, Center for the Arts, the Chateau. Sigh (that's an out of breath sigh sampled from the instant I enter Chateau after running from the CFA)

3:10 a.m. So the CFA, the building of all sounds, now echoes with only my footsteps. The hours of the afternoon somehow melted into early evening and then raced into night. I decide finally that seeing the sky grow light from my little piano room window once again would not help me start tomorrow happily. Today has been enough of a torrential, time-less rush.

After class I had to try to persuade the music library to wave overdue charges on five CDs I'd had for class on my way to Modern Dance class, then practice feverishly before my 5:30 piano lesson, run for a bite of dinner alone with Plato (intelligent philosopher, yes, but not a great conversationalist despite his knack for dialogues) and back to work on the quartet until 7:30, when I trek to Warner for a mountaineering film on El Capitan and then stumble back to the CFA once again. Now, bedtime, finally. I wonder what tomorrow morning will bring. All I know is that 8:34 a.m. is way too early for Black Francis and Kim Deal to be screaming through my dreams. Maybe I'll leave the responsibility of waking to nature... maybe not.

Shiftless student seeks satisfaction in your sorrows

By Sean Vawter
Staff Writer

Knock, knock.

After a moment of silence I hear someone yell for me to come in. I push the door open with my knee. My humble sinkmate, Todd, is lying on his bed trying to figure out some fat mathmatics problem. I slide my right hand out from behind my back, revealing the snowball which I had painstakingly crafted only moments before. He looks up and his eyes bulge wide, just as he's hit square on the bridge of his nose. Emily swivels in the computer chair at Todd's desk and gives me a dirty look as she brushes snow spray from her hair. Realizing that she is missing out on the fun, I take my left hand from behind my back and lob it onto her lap. Neither of my friends are amused.

Emily lectures me about how many pages she has to have read by such and such a time. Todd sits up in bed. His face is bright red, but not only from the impact of the snowball. His ears glow brightest as his temper flares, and the snow has nearly evaporated from his face in whisps of steam.

Taking deep breathes and chanting his mantra on the exhale, he manages to calm himself down. Emily stops yelling and they give me hard looks and berate me in stern ultra-low voices. They both agree that normally they wouldn't mind, but tomorrow is Monday and they don't want to start off the week behind in their work.

Jill sits up in bed and growls something, baring her teeth just before she plops her head back down on the pillow. She didn't actually say anything, she was just snarling at an intruder.

I mock playing a sorrowful violin, then stop and mention that I don't have classes on Monday, just before I run for my life.

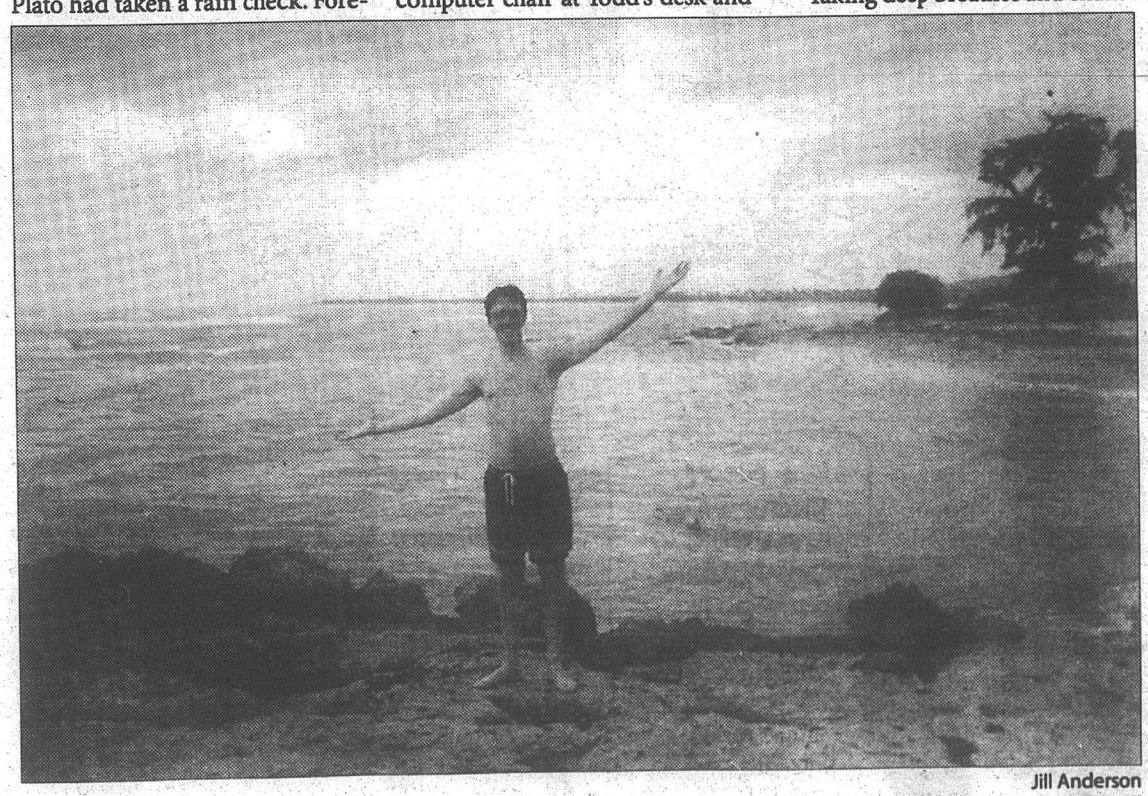
I make my escape past the sink and end up back in my room. A wave of determination sweeps over me and I decide that I really should try and get some work done, despite the fact that I actually don't have any classes on Mondays. But then I think about all the free time I can have later if I did my work now. I wrestle with these two conflicting notions and come to the unanswerable question: why not put off work today so I can put it off again tomorrow? I could think of no answer, putting off work was always so exciting. I puttered around my room in search of amusement: nothing. I wander out of the dorm, and into Jill's room

Knock, knock.

The answer is not as clear this time, it's muffled and groggy. I decide to open the door anyway. The lights are off; only the light that spills in from the hall illuminates the room. Jill sits up in bed and growls something, baring her teeth just before she plops her head back down on the pillow. She didn't actually say anything, she was just snarling at an intruder. Ignoring the hint, I stand in the doorway and try to make conversation. She doesn't feel like telling me how her day went. I know that she wants to talk to me, she just doesn't realize it yet, so I flip on the light and sit down on her feet. When I ask her why she is asleep at eleven, she reminds me about her eight o'clock class tomorrow morning. I casually mention that I have no classes on Monday. She casually tells me to burn in hell as she kicks me off bed and deftly decks me with her pillow. I take her hint and decide I'd find out how her day was when she's in a better mood.

Boredom combined with restlessness leads me down to the Crest Room. I pick up my mail, then plod over to Voter to check my email before wandering the sidewalks. I eventually end up in my room.

I can't think of a single thing to do, so I sit down to do some reading for my Medical Sociology class. I open up my book to the assigned page. I find that I am reading a detailed, illustrated, description of syphilis, and decide I'd be bettter off left in the dark. So I walked down the hall to your room.



Jill Anderson
Shiftless Sean Vawter '99 has time to go to the beach when he's not tormenting his frenetically studying friends.

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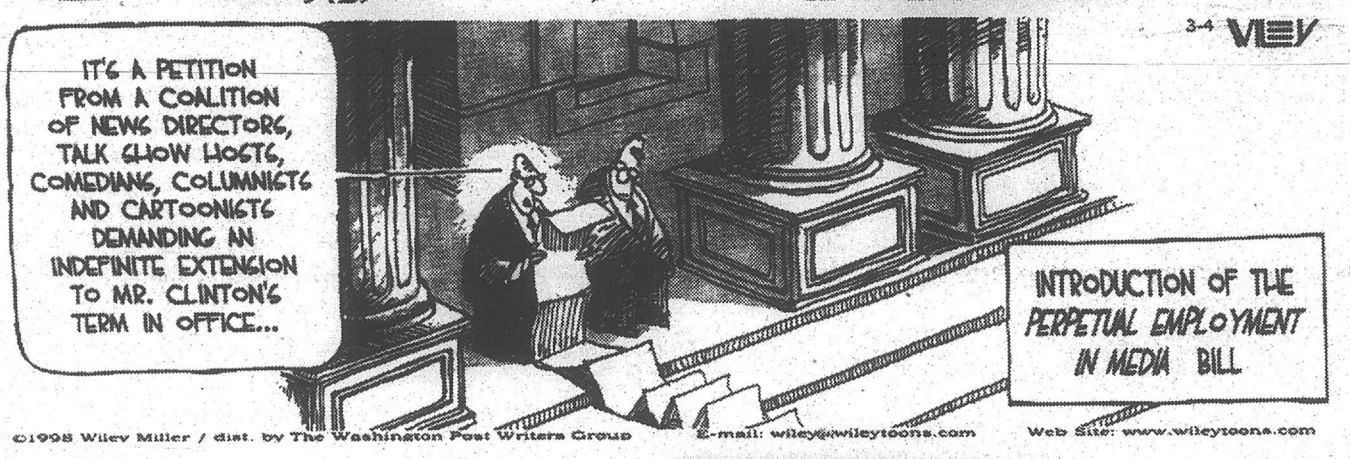
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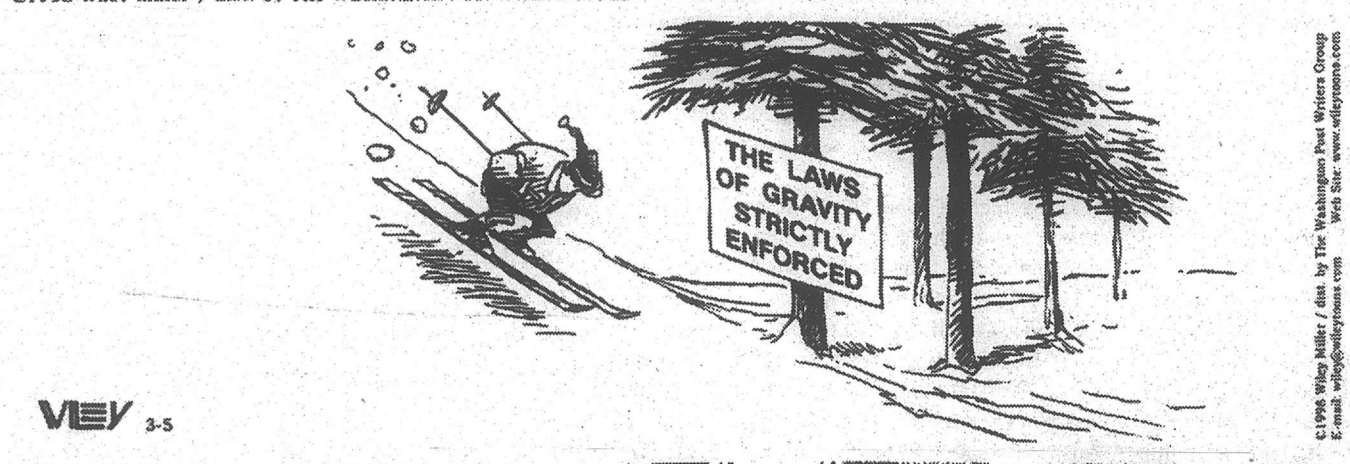
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OVERHEARD

"I was so wasted..."

Last Sunday morning in Coffrin, New Dorms, Starr, Stewart, Battell, Painter, Centeno, Gifford,Hepburn, Pearsons, and Forrest.

Admissions office kicks into full gear

By Peter Dixon
Staff writer

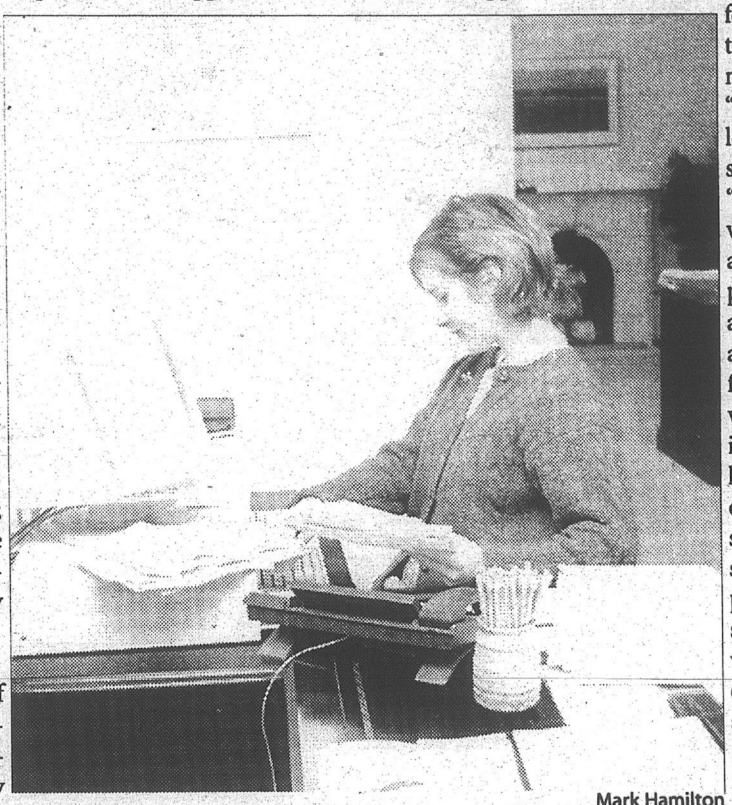
In the latest issue of *US News and World Report*, Middlebury, with its twenty-nine percent acceptance rate, ranked in the top five with lowest acceptance rate among liberal arts colleges. Despite this intimidating statistic, interest in Middlebury College is high. Although this year's total 4425 applications represents a seven-percent drop from last year's 4700 applicants,, Middlebury has a record number of applicants for the classes of 2002 and 2002.5. The Dean of Enrollment Planning Mike Schoenfeld '73 said that the drop is probably due to the recent influx in the number of early decision applications; students who are accepted early-decision do not apply to other colleges.

Approximately thirty percent of Middlebury's first-year class is accepted from the early decision pool of about 600 applicants; this percentage is compartively lower than other colleges which accept an average of fifty percent of their freshman classes from the early decision pool Groton College, for example, accepted a whopping ninety percent of its early decision applicants. Considering this incredible percentage, one has to wonder what the chances for acceptance of a student who did not choose to apply early decision.

Middlebury's admissions office has a group of fourteen whose main job is to read over four thousand applications. Each application is read by at least two people. Today, a majority of students apply to Middlebury via the common application. The common application is popular among many students because it makes the application process easier; the applicant can use the common application, copy it, and send it to the colleges. The admissions office, after reading applications, then labels a student as a fall admit, a Feb, waitlisted, or denied. In this process, Schoenfeld says, the class records are the most important aspect because it most accurately shows how the student will survive at Middlebury.

What role do our essays play in this process? "If a student wavers on the line, the essay can make the difference," said Schoenfeld.

How do the first-years feel about this process? Emily Price '01.5 does not agree with Schoenfeld's emphasis on the class records as most important. "There are varying levels of high schools," she said. "Some schools put very different amounts of emphasis on grades and grade point averages. Therefore grades are very subjective. It is [more] useful to look at the student's activities to see whether that student really applied him or herself and took advantage of the opportunities available in high school."



Mark Hamilton
A busy employee works the computer at the hectic admissions office..

While it is easy to criticize the system, it is difficult to create a system that can replace the existing one. Because of the number of applicants and the limited number of spaces, there is no perfect method of assessing applicants.

There is no fair way to evaluate a person with five pages and a ten minute interview," Wright states,

Trips to the mailbox

By Kristine Palmero
Features Editor

My phone has been shut off. There's a club here at Middlebury for people who haven't paid their PIN bills — and I'm a card-carrying member. For the last two weeks, I have been forced to wait for my family and friends to call me because I will not be decieved by the pre-paid phone cards that claim to cut phone costs by 60% (each minute only 29 cents in the continental United States!). It's probably a good thing anyway. Then my phone bills do not dip below the three digit range — and after paying exorbitant amounts for books three weeks ago and sending a check to BMG, it's best that I learn about the virtue of frugality, if only for the next few days.

So for the past fortnight I've communicated almost solely via e-mail and Excite's Instant Messenger. It wasn't until I began college that I became an e-mail convert. At my high school, the only networked computers were in the computer labs on the fourth floor of the school building or in the library, so it was neither attractive nor convenient to make the trek up three flights of stairs when it was easier to pick up the telephone receiver or lick a stamp. With the exception of my family, I wasn't a religious letter writer over the academic year anyway, as most of my friends studied at the same school. As for those who didn't, well, as I said earlier, it was easier to call them. But I have seen the light: e-mail is my saving grace and I cannot imagine life without it.

It takes a great deal of effort to stay in touch with your friends, but e-mail cuts the elbow grease by 60%. You don't need to remember much: create an address book and you don't even have to remember your friend's full name. With the miracle of e-mail, you need only to enter the nickname and, lo and behold, the computer writes in the address for you. If you want to send your friend a birthday card or the object of your affection a token of love, send a cyber greeting or an e-kiss. No need for a 32-cent stamp, no chance of spreading some gross virus. When you want to send a "hi" to your buff Irish rogue of a prom date, all you need to do is type the word. When you want to send your best friend the details, great and small, of last weekend's dance, you can postpone messages when your fingers begin to cramp and continue typing later. This also prevents the risk of misplacing the letter and finding it a year later, just in time for your next letter to your best friend about the Winter Carnival Ball. My friend Tom's voice mail greeting is, "I'd write you a letter but all my flammable materials have been confiscated." I am assuming that he too is an e-mail evangelist.

My former English teacher Mr. Scott, in stark contrast, detests e-mail. He argues that it isn't the same as good old paper and pen. Yes, I agree completely. Nothing compares to opening your mailbox and finding an envelope that doesn't hold a bill or a mass-produced letter from Dick Clark congratulating you on winning $1,000,000 (which I could use right about now to pay off that PIN bill). With the handwritten letter, you could employ your

(see E-mail, page 15)

New program stresses confidentiality

By Kristina Lyons
Staff Writer

During the daily grind of college life, tempers are often lost amidst the chaos and various problems often arise. Dealing with roommates, making decisions about drinking, drugs and sex, and choosing a career are some of the disparate problems faced by many students at some point during their four years on a college campus. Yet often these problems seem too trivial to discuss with a professional therapist.

Peer counseling is an alternate channel for students who are uncomfortable meeting with a professional counselor. Middlebury students now have the option to discuss confidential problems with a counseling network composed of their peers.

The recently formed peer counseling organization is staffed by representatives from each of the four classes who have undergone training both in high school and at Middlebury. This peer organization recognizes that it can be difficult to talk about problems with a close circle of friends; peer counseling is an opportunity to discuss issues with an impartial person who can relate because they have been through similar experiences. Said Chuck Edwards '98, "It is great to have someone to talk to besides counselors because people might feel more comfortable bouncing ideas off someone their own age. This program would be great for transition situations such as freshmen and febs who might not know anyone on campus and would like to talk to someone with college experience."

The peer group is trained to discuss issues including stress, relationship issues and adjustment to every level of one's college career from convocation to graduation. Middlebury's peer counseling network, sponsored by the Peer Counseling Resource Bank, can be reached at extension 5141 between 8:30 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. Students who have emergency issues or who call after-hours and on weekends will be connected to a peer counselor through the Health Center. All calls are guaranteed to be confidential. To coordinate a meeting, a peer counselor will return calls and arrange a time and place to discuss the specific issue of concern.

Gwenie Rogers '00 said of the program, "It could be very helpful for a lot of people if they would take advantage of it."

Peer counseling programs have been initiated on campus in previous years, but have not always succeeded due to student concern about confidentiality on a small campus like Middlebury. Confidentiality is perhaps the most crucial aspects of such a program. The issues discussed between student and his or her peer counselor must always remain private. Those involved in this fledgling peer counseling program hope that students will take advantage of this network to help themselves and to help their peers. Julie Russell '01 commented that, "It would be very helpful to have someone to talk to who is not in your group of friends because in college, your group of friends is like your family. It is important to have the option of a third party, someone who is not involved."

Added Gary Margolis '67, head of the Center for Counseling and Human Relations at Middlebury and the staff supervisor for the program, "This program is a terrific addition to the supportive services. It is another example of Middlebury students reaching out to their classmates."

Students who want to receive more information about the program, or who are interested in becoming a peer counselor, should call Carla Naumburg '98 at extension 6483.

Let there be light

David Barreda
Exploding *over Centeno last Thursday night, a display of fireworks kicked off a weekend of dance, music and excitement.*

A writer seeks his true Otter self

By Jonathan Reiber
Staff writer

Last week, Middlebury's improvisational comedy troupe, the Otter Nonsense Players, held their round of spring auditions. A participant in both these auditions and those held last fall, I am still trying to recover from the whole experience.

The Otters have always impressed me, ever since I saw them as a senior in high school on a spring visit to Middlebury, I have thought that they were really "neat".

To be honest though, I never thought that I would try out. Yet, when this past fall rolled around, the audition posters went up, and I told myself to give it a shot. My rationale: the Otters are still really "neat" and it would be something fun to do.

The only problem, which I somehow avoided, was that I really didn't have the slightest idea of how to go about doing it, "it" being improvisational comedy.

In an effort to learn, I went to a show or two and tried my best to absorb everything I saw. It made sense. I could do it. With minimal expectations for defeat or success, I went to try out.

There were about twenty people in Gifford Annex Lounge when I got there. All of a sudden, I asked myself, why are you here? The second thought that passed through my mind was, you're not really very funny. I tried to regain control. Should I give in to my self-conscious worries? Should I succumb to the evil known as fear? Should I run out the room and hide in my room, smoking a pack of butts and trying to forget how I loved the Otters? No, no, I had to do this.

The Otters were, and are really great at making everyone feel comfortable during auditions — even during the most seemingly catastrophic times. People (okay, me) would be caught floundering in a skit, wouldn't follow the basic rules (i.e. don't ever ask questions in improv, no matter what!), or would just stand there and not say anything, and the Otters would just clap and things would move on. Any sense of discomfort would evaporate. (Except for the overly analytical in attendance — okay, me again — who were plagued with fragmented thoughts such as: "Could I have said...Did I ask a ques...Do I have any idea what's...")

Many people who were at the auditions were truly funny. It got to the point, during both auditions, that I didn't want to get up because I had previously figured out that I was completely lost, and I didn't want to leave because I was laughing so much; I just wanted to sit there, laughing, people-watching and learning.

I thought to myself that I'd not be doing it again, no, never, once was all I needed to prove to myself that I was serious boy and to be happy with that...

Spring auditions rolled around and, having practically fallen over with laughter at the Otters show during the previous week, loving the quickness and intricacies of each structure, forgetting my past pains at not being funny, forgetting that I was serious boy, I decided to give it a shot again. Why? well, it looks like a ton of fun. Maybe I could do that, after all, my friends laugh at me, or...um...with me...

I think I even floundered worse this time than I did last time. Yet, it was still extremely rewarding, for two reasons. The first is that I have figured out a couple of things: one, I have a lot of work to do if I want to learn to do improv, and, two, that I am just not funny.

The second reason it was rewarding is that I got to watch a couple of friends who had never really thought about being in the group put most of us in stitches, and I know at least one of them got called back. People who had little or no acting experience had the rest of us doubled over, almost hyperventilating, and for me at least, helped to remind that I am glad that there are people out there to make us laugh when we get to serious.

I recommend auditioning to anyone who loves the Otters. Whether you make it or not, whether you spend your time floundering or making people break into hysterics, you'll have tons of fun and laughter.

Courtesy photo

The Otter Nonsense troupe entertains a full house at McCullough.

An American in Paris

By Christian Botting
Foreign Correspondent

As I hustle my way across Paris, I find that I have adopted the French public face. I have discarded the easygoing and relaxed manner with which I have conducted myself in the past, either at home in Massachusetts or at Middlebury; my face is now set permanently in a frown of cold indifference as I go about my daily business. My smiles are saved for the occasional elderly person who thanks me for holding a door, or a beaming child who has not yet learned to hold reign over his emotions or discern the difference between the public and private spheres.

This separation of public and private is not necessarily a bad thing, nor indicative of the apathy of an entire nation. Rather, it shows France's need to discriminate, to reserve its stores of passion and emotion — and there is an unlimited supply of both — for the things that are held most hold dear. Rarely will a French person elicit a meaningless display of "courtesy" towards any stranger that happens by. A smile does not come cheap, especially in Paris.

The French have no desire to overburden themselves with the "common courtesies" that outsiders often feel are so necessary. Paraphrasing Browning's "My Last Duchess," what value does a warm smile carry when it is an equal gesture for friend, family, and stranger alike? That is not to say that I am now surrounded by a race of rigid, walking statues, as unresponsive as those which line the Louvre's walls — far from it. It takes a certain amount of ceremony to scale these walls between the French and outsiders; there are social codes to follow, rituals to be observed (and patience, always have patience when in France). One must quell the instinct for "small talk"; I'm not even sure the term exists here. Do not bend conversation towards football or to the abundant supply of dog-mess on the sidewalks. Do not balk at nor comment on the clouds of smoke billowing from every French person's face. These issues do not make for very interesting or engaging discussions, or help in the effort to be a memorable person, worth a later smile at a later soiree.

Do not bend converstaion towards football or to the abundant supply of dog-mess on the sidewalks.

Not that I exactly remember all of the Pierres and Jacqueses I have met anyhow, and I'm sure even my own "illustrious" name is but a fleeting memory to many of my fine feathered-French-friends. This can be true even after our heated discussions about the differences between U.S. and French societies; or the sober critique of the Clinton/Lewinsky/Hussein power-trio that has the world populace both snickering and shaking its fists in indignation; or the way in which film has seemingly ousted theater as a medium through which man is represented in all of his nobility, folly and absurdity.

Yet I digress. Pardon; after all, it is the French way....

I like to think that my perspective is growing broader because of my experience abroad; after all, Paris is supposedly the culmination of my real "education," that which cannot be found either in textbooks or classrooms, and after which I must cheerily arm myself and grit my teeth against a furious barrage of senior theses, essays and exams, and then?....Still, I am not worried — not yet, anyhow.

For now I am content to watch, listen and blend into the crowd that surrounds me, "la forte qui m'enroule," to stare into the timeless depths of the Seine and see myself reflected in the murky waters — perhaps standing where Napoleon did almost two centuries ago, or perhaps where my grandfather stood after the liberation of Paris at the end of the Second World War. Perhaps my future son will stand here by the banks of the Seine when his time comes, he himself reflecting, as I do now, on all that has come before and what will come afterwards; and maybe, proving a traitor to the French custom, a smile will play upon his lips, dancing on the endless drift of the river.

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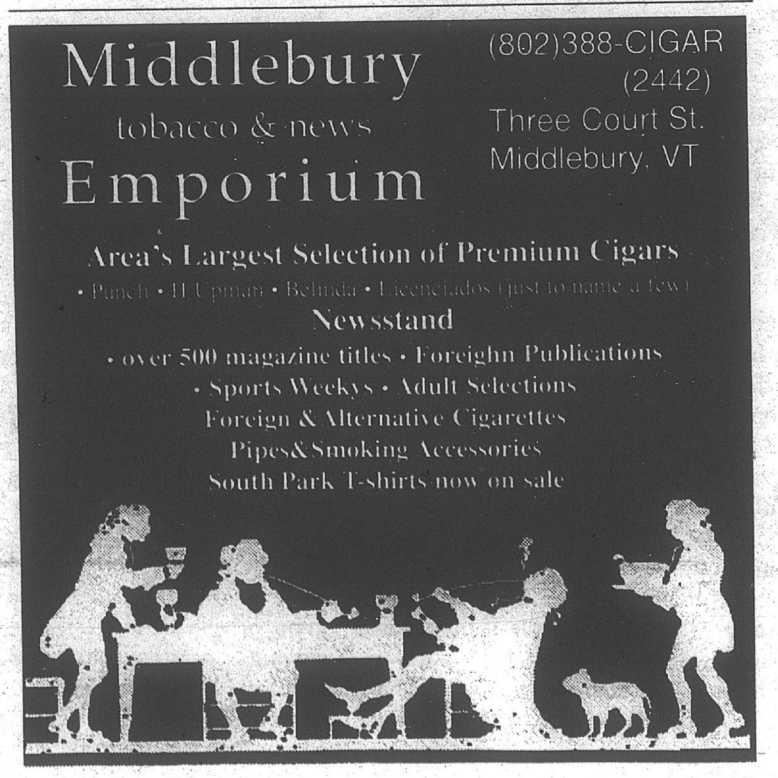

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Study spots reflect wide diversity of learning styles on campus

By Tom Marks
Staff writer

Although many Middlebury students devote their evenings to their studies, very few do so in the same manner. Walking around campus on any given night, one can see the unique methods various members of our community have devised to suit their particular learning styles.

The most popular place to study on campus now, and will likely forever be, is Starr Library. Each of the five levels seems to have its own peculiar identity, whether it be the lush upholstery of the fifth floor loft or the dank, dungeonesque feel of the basement. Alyssa Root '00 is one of those who prefers the solitary confinement of the Starr Storage room, located on the subterranean first floor. "It's so quiet here," said Root. "There's hardly anybody ever down here."

Sometimes the seclusion of the storage room is a bad thing. Root once had the lights shut off on her when it came time for closing. "That was pretty scary," she confessed. "I'm always out of here by 11:30 now."

Librarian Patricia Grey knows first-hand how far people will go to get a quiet and convenient place to study in the library. "I've seen students studying in the bathroom," said Grey. Grey believes that, in addition to the lofts, many students look for "secluded place tucked in between the stacks." One of these students is Arvind Ponnambalam '01. Ponnambalam admitted that he favors the Meredith Wing of the library. On this particular night he could be found between a stack of Chinese volumes on the fourth floor.

"I just like this wing," he affirmed, "I think it's the hum of the ventilation system."

Another conglomeration of feverishly cramming students can be found in the science center. On any given night, the second-floor lounge in the science center is packed with those working on labs or problem sets.

David Chitayat '00 says he enjoys working in Room 228, a small room with a table, a chalkboard and physics majors, because "all the professors are around here, so it's sort of like a social place as well as a study place."

Jason Wyman '99 agreed with Chitayat. "Thursday nights are pretty busy around here because everything is due the next day."

Taking the elevator up to the fifth floor one can read the blue ink inscription above the buttons reading, "I love this place, especially when I could be out skiing." There is some truth mixed in with the heavy sarcasm of this line, as evidenced by Nicole Donovan '00, a biology major who was found doing Spanish on the eighth floor of the library. "I tend to be here a lot anyway, so I do most of my work here," she said, "I also like the view here during the day time."

One of the advantages to working in the science library, located on the top floors of the science center, is that traffic in the building is minimal.

Julie Scofield '00 and Lorrie Yost '00 were found hard at work on the fourth floor lounge of Johnson. "It's quiet here and there's less going on, less flow than the library," said Yost. Scofield not only enjoys the peace of the Johnson lounge, but also the spaciousness. "I like the big open spaces, and the view from the windows during the day," Scofield said.

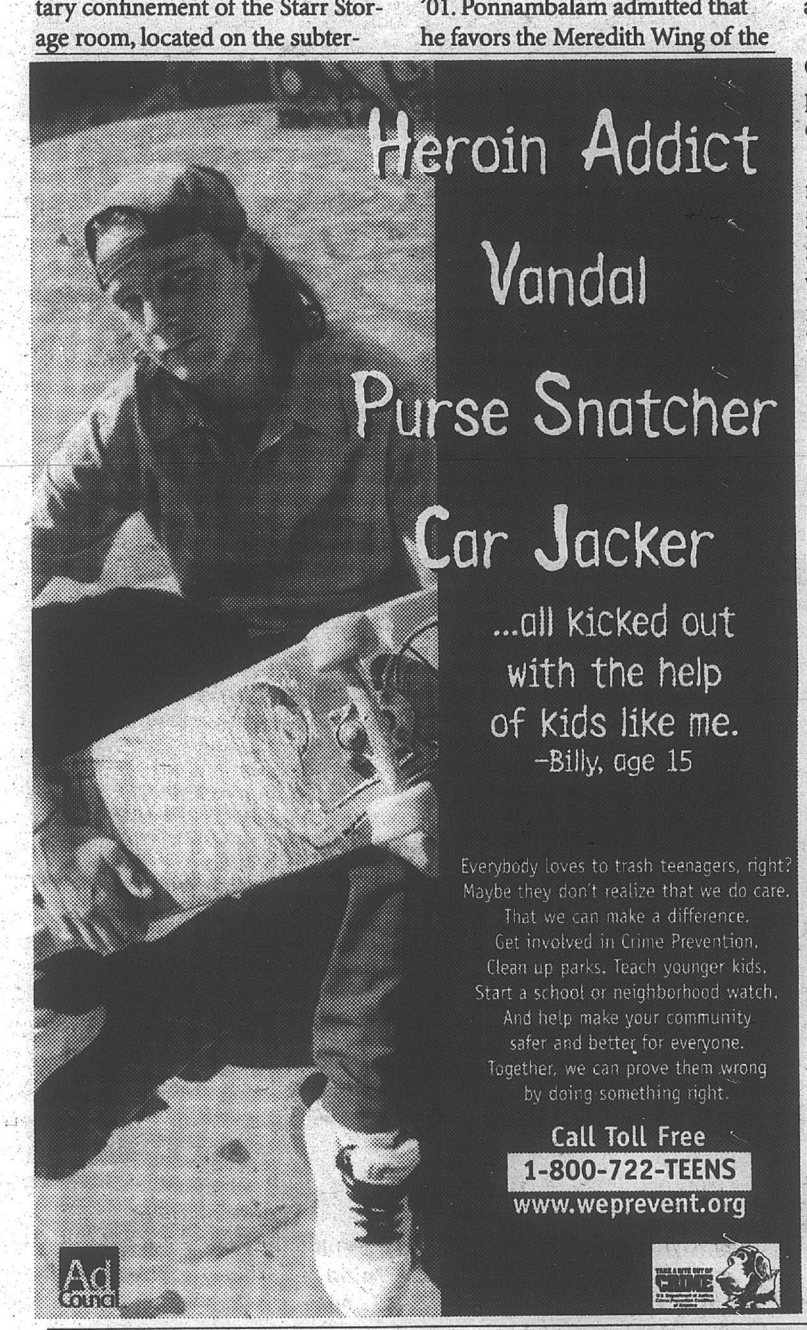
Across the street is the largest freshman dormitory on campus, Battell. Being as raucous as it is, studious freshmen must find inventive places to study, where they can actually get work done. Robyn Brown '01 seeks refuge in the basement. "It's quiet and it's very close," she said, "I can also wear my pajamas down there."

Pajamas are not the normal attire in the Crest Room, but the snack bar in McCullough is home nonetheless to intense weekday studying. Glenn Edwards '99 finds it the perfect place for tutoring high school students. "It's quiet, but not too quiet," he said, with reference to the murmur coming from the first floor and his own conversations with his pupils.

Of course not everyone has time to tuck themselves away in a quiet room or corner. Many students find themselves multi-tasking in the basement of Forest Hall, doing both laundry and school work. As one student said, "It the most convenient way to get two things done at once. It also forces me to do my work because there's nothing else to do here but watch laundry spin."

Not to be overlooked is the Gamut Room, where students often brave loud jazz music and busy conversations in order to be in a location where the coffee and tea flows freely, and the bagels are never cold. And should one desire a break, the campus coffeehouse, located in the basement of Gifford Hall, offers many diversions in the chaotic paintings on its walls.

The only place this reporter went where not a single student was found studying was Mead Chapel. Perhaps that's because it seems sacrilegious to bring something as unholy as a calculus book into a place of worship. Or maybe it's because students realize that they need more than just the help of God to get through a semester of calculus. Yet one thing is clear — whether your brain requires constant background noise or complete silence, pillows or hard concrete, food or fasting, there is a place for you to study somewhere on campus.


Heroin Addict
Vandal
Purse Snatcher
Car Jacker
...all kicked out with the help of kids like me.
–Billy, age 15
Everybody loves to trash teenagers, right? Maybe they don't realize that we do care. That we can make a difference. Get involved in Crime Prevention. Clean up parks. Teach younger kids. Start a school or neighborhood watch. And help make your community safer and better for everyone. Together, we can prove them wrong by doing something right.
Call Toll Free
1-800-722-TEENS
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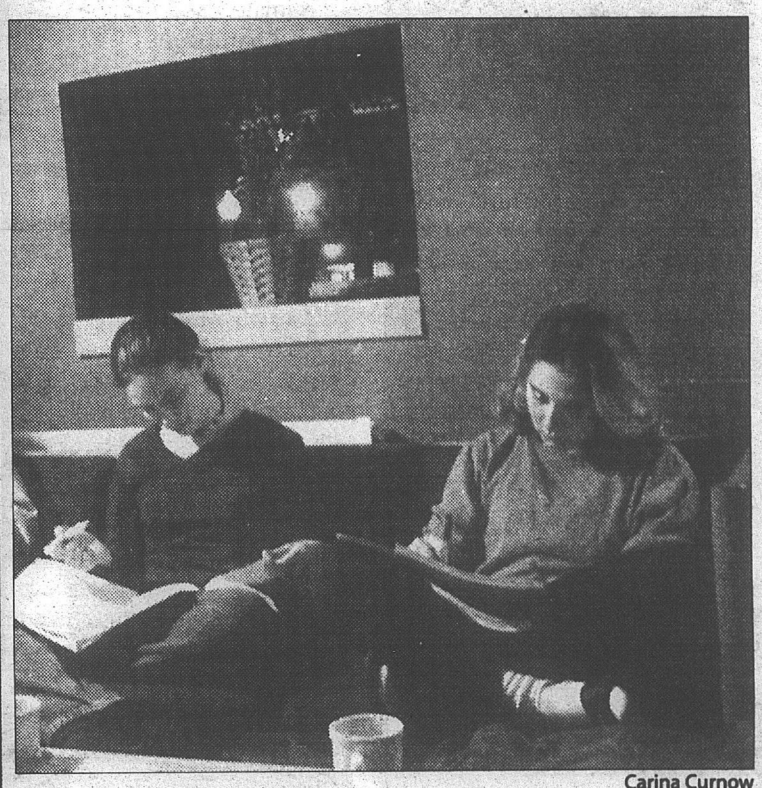


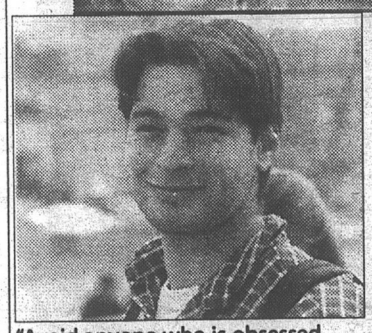
Carina Curnow

Students enjoy bagels, coffee and books as they study in the Gamut Room.

Campus Voices

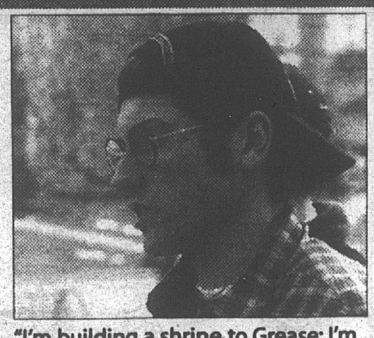
How are you preparing for the twentieth anniversary re-release of "Grease?"

Photos by David Barnett



"Avoid anyone who is obsessed with the movie."
--Zak Sinick '99.5

"I'm pulling out the black spandex, baby."
--Alex Fuller '99



"I'm building a shrine to Grease: I'm collecting Motorola oil cans and building a replica of the Golden Gate Bridge."
--Ben Maixner '01.5

"I'm getting hydromatic and systematic!"
--Anna Benvenuto '00

E-mail evangelists

(continued from page 11)

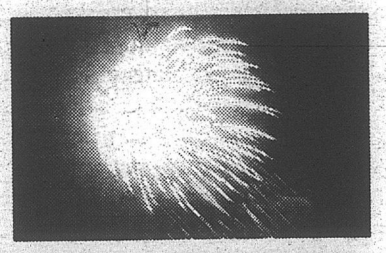
graphology skills and analyze his penmanship. You could save that letter for your future children to read and inhale the sweet scent of lavender. Still, such letters are as rare as people who drench their stationery with lavender. As wonderful as these letters are, I am the first to say that the more immediate form of communication will win the battle between snail mail and e-mail...most of the time at least.

I think I'm OK. When I finally get around to paying off my long-overdue bill, I know my fingers will do the walking once again. I own a box of stationery and always carry two stamps in

You could save that letter for your future children to read and inhale the sweet scent of lavneder.

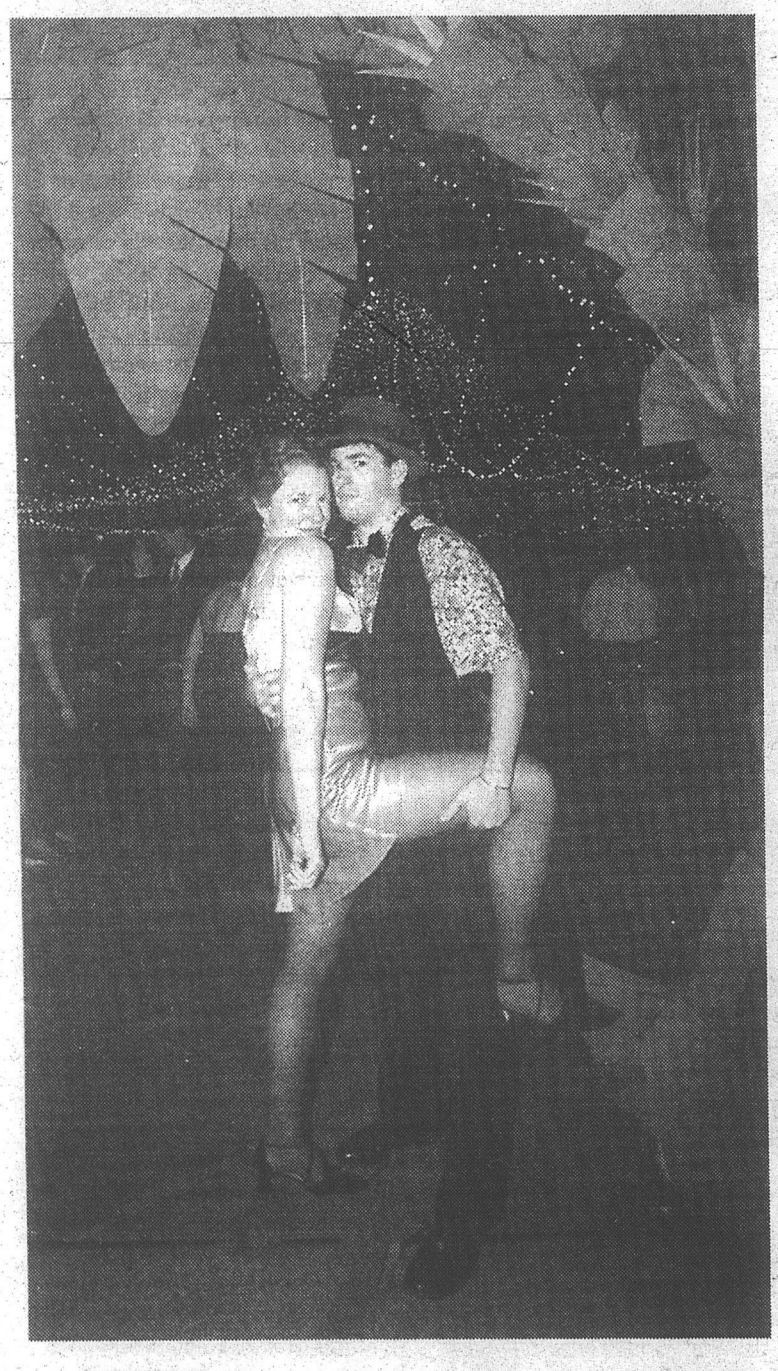
my wallet and once in a blue moon I'll e-mail a friend to say, "Expect something in your real mailbox in the next three days." When she opens her virtual mailbox to read her note, I imagine that she would be smiling at her screen on the other end of cyberspace. I know I would be.

WINTER '98 carnival



Dazzling... Panache... Thrilling... Crazy... Sexy... Funky... Exotic... Fun!

Photography by Mark Hamilton and Todd Champagne



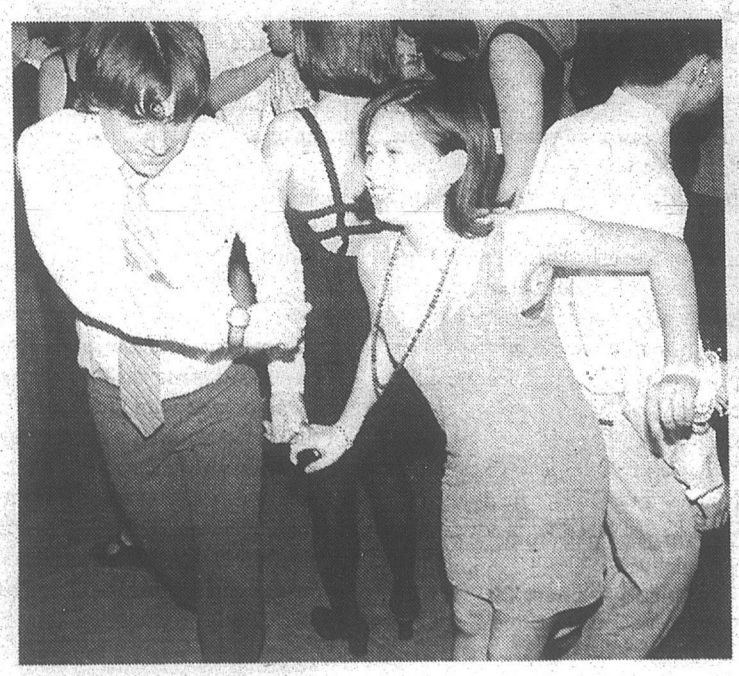
A word from our King and Queen:

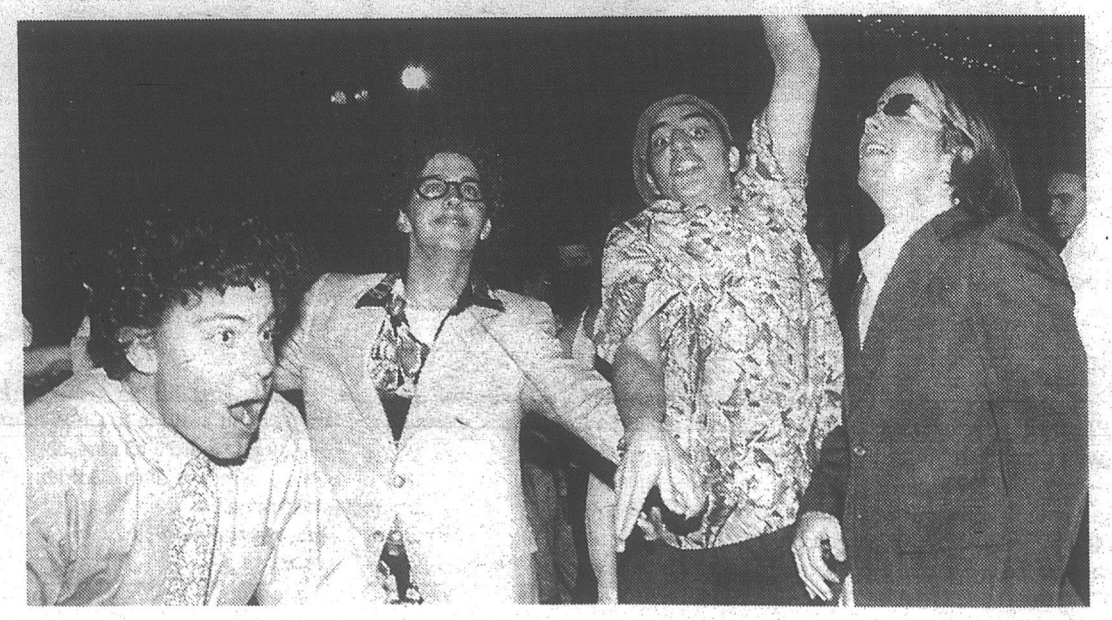
"I knew when to hold them, I knew when to fold them."

-Dave Thomas

"Thanks to my Saturday night victory, I have recently licensed my image to the Franklin Mint so that you too can own a 1998 commemorative Tanya Boudakian Winter Carnival Queen doll for only three monthly installments of $19.95, diamond replica tiara included.

-Tanya Boudakian





'Absolut Alvarez' reveals deeper tendencies of artistic change

By David Keeling
Arts Editor

In 1985, Absolut Vodka changed the course of advertising history by utilizing contemporary art as a marketing strategy. The names Andy Warhol, Keith Haring, and many other prominent artists began appearing regularly on the back pages of Time Magazine, Newsweek, and Vogue, announced by block lettering below their interpretations of the characteristic Absolut bottle. Recently, Absolut has been incorporating not only visual artists in their advertisements, but writers as well, and—lo and behold!—Middlebury's own Julia Alvarez has appeared amidst the vodka ranks.

Professor Alvarez's venture into the realm of commercial advertising should, at the very least, make us question the permeability of the boundary between what has traditionally been known as "high art" and "mass media." Indeed, we should perhaps question the very existence of this boundary. Fredric Jameson, in his essay "Postmodernism and Consumer Society," notes that this fading of distinctions, "is perhaps the most distressing development of all from an academic standpoint, which has traditionally had a vested interest in preserving a realm of high or elite culture against the surrounding environment of philistinism, of schlock and kitsch..., and in transmitting difficult and complex skills of reading, listening and seeing to its initiates." The question at hand is not whether Academia would consider Absolut vodka "kitsch," but rather what it means for our perception of art and literature that distinguished artists and writers are helping to promote and sell a product, and what this pairing connotes in terms of the future of both "high" and "commercial" art and literature.

In many ways, Absolut ads may be seen as a sign of the times and an emblem of transformation. They represent the melding of corporate images and interests with the time-honored exclusivity of the artist and the artist's work. As Jameson notes, for many people (particularly academics), this erasure of cultural demarcation is threatening; it is all too easy to perceive within this combining of forms the demise of art as it is plunged into an ocean of commercial culture. However, not only does such an unlikely hypothesis rest on a foundation of paranoia and insecurity, it also implicitly and arrogantly assumes that "art" can be made "worse," but popular culture cannot be made "better" or—even more so—that popular culture and commercial imagery could be art. That is to say, through its assumption of the incompatibility of "art" and "popular culture" it disregards the possibility of mediation between the two.

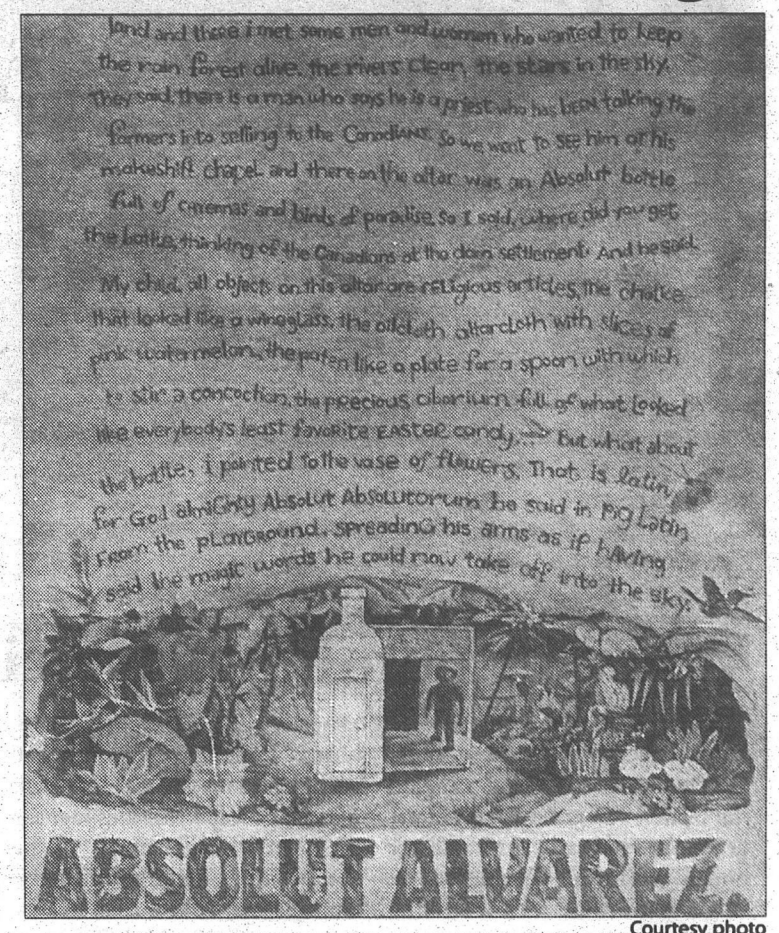
In many ways, Absolut ads may be seen as a sign of the times and an emblem of transformation

However, Michael Lind, in Harper's Magazine, suggests that rather than simply "ceding the field" to either a "stale, university-based high culture" or to "Disney and the other media cartels," America should seek out just such a mediating possibility. He describes this mediating option as, "a resumption of the task of creating an American high culture that is neither belligerently provincial nor emptily cosmopolitan." This sort of option would ostensibly incorporate the influences of both "mass-media" and "high art."

Absolut Vodka's advertising campaign clearly shows the beginnings of a trend towards this sort of fusion. Not only that, but it may represent one of the contractions in the birth of a new American culture that neither disregards the critical influence and imagery of commercial culture nor grants favored cultural status to those who promote such a dismissal. An approach toward art and literature which emphasizes eclecticism and synthesis seems not only possible and preferable, but also, given contemporary literary and artistic forms and such societal markers as Julia Alvarez's Absolut ad, imminent. Such an approach may help to secure a new American cultural identity as well, independent of the aloofness of a modernist aesthetic and unafraid to acknowledge a particularly American context.

That is not to say that the American art and literature of the next few decades should or will come strictly in the guise of Absolut Vodka advertisements; rather, the important issue here is the breakdown of the "mass-media" "high art" division that such ads symbolize and encourage. This breakdown does not entail that all "art" and "literature" will be commercial, nor that all corporate advertising strategies will be "artistic" or "literary"; instead, it allows for a degree of inclusivity that can be refreshing and useful on a large cultural scale.

Julia Alvarez's Absolut ad, however willing or unwillingly intended, is more than a corporate gimmick to induce those who see it to by vodka; it's also another subtle sign of change for "literature," "art," and "mass-media."



Courtesy photo

Vermont art re-emerges in exhibition

By Josh Fisher
Staff Writer

When one thinks of American art of the twentieth century, one does not generally focus on Vermont. After all, the state is hardly known for being the sort of artistic mecca that characterizes New York City's SoHo, for example. It may therefore surprise us to know that four of the most popular and highly acclaimed artists of the 1960s lived and worked near Bennington, a mere two-hour drive south of Middlebury.

While the names Paul Feeley, Kenneth Noland, Jules Olitski and Anthony Caro fail to ring a bell with the average American, they were in fact more highly appreciated, in their time, than artists such as Andy Warhol and Roy Lichtenstein. After all, it is the latter two artists with whom the art of the sixties has lately been associated. In part because of the influence of Warhol and Lichtenstein, the art of the four "Green Mountain Boys," as the Vermont quartet has been called, is seen less and less frequently in museums (with the possible exception of Caro). For the most part, their style of art is regarded as representative of an outdated artistic tradition.

The Andre Emmerich gallery on 57th Street in New York City, however, is currently displaying the works of these Vermont artists. Perhaps this exhibition will help disseminate knowledge of the "Green Mountain Boys" and their particular style of creation.

During the 1960s, the theory known as formalism dominated artistic discourse. The foremost exponent of formalism, the critic Clement Greenberg, advocated art devoid of all subject matter. Art, said Clement, could only hope to be great if it was abstract and dealt only with the basic artistic properties such as color and composition, properties contained under the umbrella of form (hence the name "formalism").

Greenberg also saw the history of modern art as linear, progressing logically from 19th-century masters such as Courbet and Manet to Cezanne, Picasso, and finally, Pollock. Dada and other surrealist artists were written off as minor and not worthy of serious examination, as were such contemporaries of Greenberg such as Warhol and Robert Rauschenberg. The next step after Pollock's "action painting" would be what was termed "post-painterly abstraction," art that eschewed painterly aspects such as line and brushstroke. The stained canvases of Helen Frankenthaler and Morris Louis, who soaked pigment into the canvas rather than applying it with a brush, were the first examples of this new mode of painting.

It was from this tradition that Noland and Olitski emerged. And what better place to produce their post-painterly abstractions than in the traditionally free-spirited environs of Bennington College, Frankenthaler's alma mater. Bennington was also home to Paul Feeley, who served as Frankenthaler's teacher and himself a pioneer of the new style. Feeley's playful, amoeba-like figures, painted in bright, jolly colors, convey no sense of brushstroke, but even these forward-looking paintings would seem outmoded when Noland and Olitski began exhibiting. In a 1966 essay on the Green Mountain Boys, which the Emmerich gallery reproduced for their catalog of the exhibition, Alan Solomon wrote that Feeley's paintings still "imply...something organic, in spite of the inertia of the surface and badly modulated clarity of the color, as if rectangles were trying to come to life."

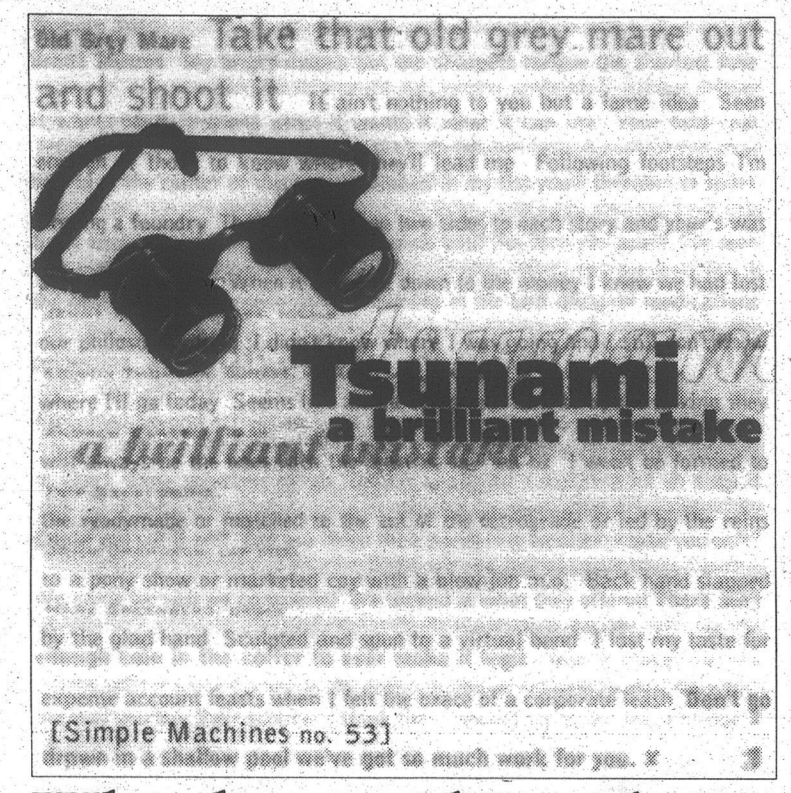
Noland and Olitski, who reached the peaks of their artistic careers after Feeley, would throw these associations with nature out the window — a move advocated by Greenberg. Noland is most well-known for his stain paintings which resemble targets. In fact, these paintings were influenced by the target paintings of Jasper Johns, which Noland saw in the late fifties. Unlike Johns, however, Noland uses the target only as a formal device, and he does not attach any symbolic or semiotic significance to it, as Johns does. Although we appreciate the beauty and physical energy of Noland's targets, we are not intrigued by any mysterious connotations that the target might carry, and we do not search our brains for associations, as we do when confronted with a work by Johns. After the target paintings, Noland turned to what was called "hard-edge abstraction," a style in which line was again an important aspect of the painting. This was a style that was most commonly associated with Frank Stella, another artist whom Greenberg admired although Stella's objectives in painting differed greatly from Greenberg's ideas. This 180-degree turnaround in Noland's style marks him as an artist lacking in direction. While Noland produced paintings of unsurpassed elegance, he seemed

(see Vermont, page 20)

Aide! A Night of Balkan Music

David Barreda

The Newark Balkan*Chorus will perform this Friday night at 10PM in the concert hall for the first Fridays Cultural Coffeehouse. This teenage chorus from Newark, Vt. in the Northeast Kingdom will sink traditional folk songs from Eastern Europe in Bosnian, Hungarian, Georgian, and Serbo-Croatian.*



Tsunami makes a 'Brilliant Mistake'

By Samuel Folk-Williams
Staff Writer

Coming from Arlington, Virginia via their own independent label, Simple Machines, Tsunami is one of a handful of politically-committed, artistically and financially independent bands who maintain their integrity despite numerous opportunities for greater exposure and financial success. The end result is that most people have never heard of Tsunami, but those who have regard them as among the most intelligent, original, powerful, and stimulating songwriters of the day.

Fronted by guitarists/vocalists/lyricists Jenny Toomey and Kristin Thomson, Tsunami creates songs of intense passion, subtle complexity, invigorating energy, and raw emotion. A Brilliant Mistake is the band's fourth full-length album, coming after a two year hiatus during which the band members re-grouped, explored other projects, and honed a deeper sense of thought and artistic maturity. The new album is more delicate than the band's past efforts, with so many subtle layers and nuances in each song, that after numerous listenings there are still undiscovered aspects to be found which heighten meaning and add a rare depth.

The album booklet itself begins the pattern; printed on ornate, translucent paper, the words of each song are laid out on top of one another, so that layers of each song present themselves in the foreground, but sight of the intervening connections is never lost. The effect is subtle, attractive, appealing, and somewhat thoughtful.

The album begins with the murmur and static of some unidentifiable fuzzy tones that make themselves apparent as a pattern only after the strum of acoustic guitar begins its simple, slow, methodical chord progression. The drums appear, but do not continue in a linear pattern. The delicate, stark voice of Toomey enters softly: "Take an old great mare out and shoot it, it ain't nothing to you but a lame idea." The waning, slow notes of the second guitar slide across the plane. "Seen enough of those to know where they'll lead me," Toomey's voice intensifies with each syllable, "following footsteps I'm finding a foundry." The drums become constant and the guitar melody becomes more lively before reverting to the beginning. As the verses progress, the bold, raw emotion of Toomey's voice becomes more and more gripping and powerful: "I lost my taste for expense account feasts when I felt the brace of a corporate leash." The piece ends with intense repetition of the stern plea, "Don't go drown in a shallow pool, we've got so much work for you."

"Double Shift" features the more light-hearted voice of Thomson and works on the primary structure of the juxtaposition of a delicate, melodic verse backed by a wistful horn line, contrasted with a curt chorus of heavy guitars and undulating percussion. "I'd like to get away for just a few days from this double shift I'm living on," begins Thomson in a high, gentle voice, "Like a juggler tossing too many knives." She grows more and more stern until the outburst of the chorus, "Is that all we get for cutting against the grain? Is that all it's got to be?"

"Enter Misguided" is a driving push of bitter resentment towards the corporate world of music, which lures hopeful musicians in and slowly robs them of artistic integrity with visions of money and recognition. This is a tired subject matter, but Tsunami handles it in a very subtle, intelligent manner, drawing on the essences of personal experience, rather than launching into a tirade on the evils of corporate America.

"Liars Dance" begins with a washy, diluted melodic line, enriched by the watery repetition of two bass notes, and the echo of the clashing snare drum: "I've got the right to look. I've got the right to lie, I've got the right to remain silent," sings Toomey in a deep, yet playful voice.

A Brilliant Mistake runs a wide range of stylistic influence and innovation and evokes a number of different moods and emotions. The lyrics are thoroughly poetic, intelligent, and meaningful, and largely seem to offer a poignant social criticism of American values. As Toomey asks so starkly in "Enter Misguided," "with all this perfection, who's going to make a brilliant mistake?" Tsunami has surely had their share of mistakes throughout their career, but this latest effort is... just brilliant.

Wheeler combines lyricism and musical elegance

By Marika Hoe
Staff Writer

When Erica Wheeler sang in the Gamut Room on Friday afternoon, she invited listeners into her honest world of folk music. The singer performed with a striking ease in her manner that never sacrificed energy nor suggested a pinch of musician egotism. She stood comfortably on the small stage in blue jeans, black tunic, and holding her acoustic guitar, singing and joking with the clusters of smiling students. "So did you all have a good Valentine's Day?" she asked between songs. "I find that Valentine's is like the midterm of relationships." The atmosphere bubbled with feel-good, Friday delight as Wheeler drew in the crowd with her confidence and quirky humor. With balloons decorating the walls and heaps of cookies, brownies, and hot cocoa, the room seemed prepared for a child's birthday party. And indeed, people's faces smiled with the same kind of happy contentment that children often have at such events.

Love, or a lack thereof, were prominent themes in many of Wheeler's lyrics. "I wrote my first song out of teenage relationship angst," she said in a post-performance interview. From friends, to family, to lovers, to ex-lovers, and even to pet cats, Wheeler's music explores and tries to make sense of various relationships. But she does it with a twist.

To distinguish herself from the myriad other female folk singers, Wheeler stresses the poetry of her lyrics. "I often write about what's going on in my life and then swirl it in a landscape." Besides focusing on relationships, much of her songwriting inspiration comes from nature. Folk music, like any other genre, has its boundaries, and any artist, if she or he wants to succeed, must reinvent and break those boundaries. Wheeler does this through her reverence for nature. "I try to bring a poignancy to my lyrics—especially by bringing in the landscape. I see the world very intensely. Other [songwriters] may be more light hearted, and they may be happier, but I've always seen things very intensely... that's how I can connect." There's only so much that an acoustic guitar can do, and the world has seen many expert guitarists. Wheeler's environmental inspiration mixes with personal experiences on her creative palate to produce lyrics that have musicality on their own. The guitars adds to the poetry, not vice versa.

Her songs aren't sweet and bland (a typical critique of the generic folk singer) but short, well-crafted, imagistic pieces of writing. The stories and little glories of everyday life are given just as much attention as the heavier emotional stuff. One moment she may be musing about the difficulties of long distance relationships, the next she may be doing a soulful satire on the coffee junkies from her hometown of Northampton, MA. Variety is key, and Wheeler's thoughtfulness is not restricted to a small repertoire.

Using a Maya Angelou poem Wheeler sang, "I'll rise, I'll rise, I'll rise, rise rise." It became clear that this woman was up to music's challenge. "I write songs until I love them — when people are really listening... there's an intimacy that makes [my music] more alive." Wheeler explained that the artist and the audience must make their experiences worthwhile by connecting to one another. She definitely kept her end of the bargain with her free spirited manner, and the small group of listeners provided receptive ears.

Erica Wheeler is an explorer and a thinker, a person whose body and voice act as unimpeded vehicles for expression. Surrounding the soft quality of her voice is a layer of soul and energy that makes her work as a performer visibly meaningful to the audience. And the result is an honest and simple delight.

Mark Hamilton

Erica Wheeler entertained with songs about love, pet cats, and coffee.

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'The Apostle' attests to Duvall's directing talent

By Andrea Yevuta
Staff Writer

Courtesy photo

Although the vast majority of Americans claim to believe in God, specific discussions about religion tend to focus on the political agenda of the Christian Coalition, the sexual escapades of someone like Jimmy Swaggart, political contributions by Buddhist nuns or the sadness felt by the entire country at the cancellation of the "Jim J. and Tammy Faye" talk show. The popular media tends to caricature religion, focusing less on matters of doctrine or faith and instead relying on the sensational aspects of conflict in Israel, Turkey or Ireland, to name just a few areas of ongoing religious strife in the world.

Given these circumstances, it is hard to believe that Robert Duvall, after twelve years and five million dollars of his own money, has crafted a movie that so eloquently portrays American religious faith. That movie is "The Apostle" and while it certainly stands as one of the greatest religious movies to ever come out of Hollywood, it is also by far one of the best films of the year — simultaneously capturing the intricacies of its characters and treating its subject with a seriousness not normally found in current discussions of religious life.

Duvall wrote, directed, and starred in this film about Euliss "Sonny" Dewey, a philandering Texas minister who is nonetheless absolutely committed to God and his family. When Sonny discovers that his wife Jessie (Farrah Fawcett) has been having an affair with Horace, a young bishop in the church, he gets angry. When she tries to take his church away from him, he gets even by swinging a softball bat at Horace in front of his wife and children, sending Horace into a coma. Realizing that he is sure to be arrested, he immediately leaves town with little more than his car and his Bible.

For Duvall to create such a complex character is a triumph in acting and directing. Sonny could easily be portrayed as the victim of a cheating wife and an unsupportive congregation. Quick cuts between scenes of a whirlwind preaching tour and of his magnetic presence in his own congregation serve to show the sincerity of Sonny and his effect on his listeners. However, Duvall does not let the viewer forget that beneath his devotion to God Sonny covers some serious sins, by suggesting that he abuses his wife and filming in graphic detail Sonny's anger toward Horace. Encapsulating the wide-ranging nature of Sonny is his comment, "I may be on the devil's hit-list, but I'm on God's mailing list."

Eventually, Sonny finds his way to a small town in Louisiana where he gets a job as a mechanic, preaches on a radio station, and starts a small church with a retired black minister, Brother Blackwell (John Beasley.) He drives his car into a river – the first in a series of symbolic baptisms – and takes a new name, "The Apostle E.F." Duvall again succeeds in juxtaposing Sonny's unrelenting desire for his new church to succeed with his connection to his family that he has left behind. This is not a man who has been freed from his sins simply by escaping to a new place; rather, he continues to suffer even as he develops a new understanding of his own salvation.

Without a doubt, Duvall's strongest talent as a director is in capturing character and setting. Each of the people whom Sonny meets has a strong personality, only at the end of the movie does the viewer recognize just how distinct these characters have become. For example Jessie is not reduced to the stereotypical cheating wife, but instead conveys the difficulty of living with someone as strong-willed as Sonny.

In a pivotal moment of the film, an unnamed trouble-maker, played by Billy Bob Thornton, tries to destroy The Apostle's church. While the moment is most important in illustrating Sonny's development, Thornton's character makes a strong impression. In perhaps the best performance of the film (aside from Duvall), Walt Goggins plays Sam, a fellow mechanic whom The Apostle befriends. He is a character allowed to experience his own moving spiritual development as the movie progresses, although he could easily become a caricature of the dumb southerner.

Duvall's own performance as Sonny can be described in one word — energetic. Sonny is constantly running from one place to the next and when someone comments on his unfailing excitement, he replies, "I quit school because I didn't like recess." His enthusiasm is what draws people to his church and is what allows the viewer to become entranced during Sonny's many sermons during the film. This is obviously a role that Duvall has waited a long time to play, and given the chance, he embraces Sonny, good qualities and bad.

Filmed on location in Texas and Louisiana, "The Apostle" completely captures the feel of the deep south. During one scene in Texas, Sonny walks along a sidewalk near an Astroturf green, manicured lawn. In Louisiana, he perfectly captures steam rising up from a river as he walks across an old metal bridge. His "One Way to Heaven" church would fit into any small, southern town.

Every performance of the film deserves praise, but this is Duvall's movie through and through. He has crafted a movie that is unerring in its treatment of religion and the South.

By the film's end, one realizes that Sonny is not merely spouting religious rhetoric when he says, "I'd rather die today and go to heaven than live to be a hundred and go to hell."

DJ Shadow re-samples old electronica

By Otie Hart
Staff Writer

America never really caught on to the "electronic" scene as the music industry envisioned. After the media repeatedly tried, and failed, to shove Prodigy and the Chemical Brothers down our Yankee throats, England still remains the techno mecca of the world—so much that state side DJs are signing with British record labels. DJ Shadow is the best and most recognizable example. His new album, "Preemptive Strike," which was released in U.S. just last month, is actually a collaboration of previously released European singles. The material is mostly new to the this side of the Atlantic, and while "Strike" is not the tour de force needed to lure society away from Counting Crows and Dave Matthews Band, it is a must for any aspiring amateur, or professional DJ.

DJ Shadow, a.k.a. Josh Davis, grew up outside San Francisco during the 1980's, a period when hip-hop and DJs were overshadowed by hard rock bands such as Motley Crue and Poison. Davis was drawn to the beats of classic rap groups, such as Eric B. & Rakim and Public Enemy, both of whom featured great DJs. Once he moved to Northridge to attend college, Davis' skill as a DJ bloomed and his tapes were soon circulating the dense hip-hop underground. The British label Mo'Wax eventually heard his material and released his first single, "In/Flux," in 1993, which also happens to be the first song on "Preemptive Strike." After three years of releasing various singles, including the 40-minute long epic, "What Does Your Soul Look Like," Davis assembled his first LP, "Endtroducing...," which upon release in 1996, was met with immense critical praise and was hailed by many as the best album of the year. "Preemptive Strike" is less of a new release and more of a re-issue. All of the tracks have already been released by the Mo'Wax label in England, so for the long time Shadow fan, this album will seem downright old; however, for the rest of us, "Strike" offers some beautiful numbers. The album is basically made up of three Mo'Wax singles, "In/Flux" (released in October, 1993), "What Does Your Soul Look Like" (February, 1995) and "High Noon" (September, 1997).

"In/Flux," another lengthy track, combines elements of jazz, hip-hop, ambient, rock and funk with rare record samples

The other tracks on "Strike" are the B-Sides of the afore-mentioned singles. At first glance, people may think they're getting gypped, but upon further review, the album is over an hour long and includes a DJ Shadow Megamix bonus CD by DJ Q-Bert that ups the album's length to 85 minutes. Since three singles make up the meat of "Strike," most of the album is incredible. While "Endtroducing..." is still by far superior to the rest of the album, Davis has included some engaging melodies on his second U.S. release. "What Does Your Soul Look Like," despite its length, seems to fly by, especially "Part 2," which features a plethora of soothing samples. Horns open up the track, but quickly yield to a woman's voice and an intoxicating guitar loop. "In/Flux," another lengthy track, combines elements of jazz, hip-hop, ambient, rock and funk with rare record samples. The result is a 12-minute masterpiece that seems much shorter than one might expect. One disappointing factor with "Preemptive Strike" is Davis' lack of scratching. Most of the melodies are a constant blend of samples, with little improvising. Since most of the tracks were released before "Endtroducing...," it accentuates how much Davis improved between 1993 and 1996. While "Strike" may not be Davis' best material, it certainly exceeds America's low standard of excellence in the music business. "High Noon," which most would agree is Davis' poorest single, is still more complex and interesting than most anything the legion of DJ Shadow imitators have to offer.

Davis' "Endtroducing..." certainly raised the bar for aspiring DJs, and while he may have taken a small step back with "Preemptive Strike," he is still leaps and bounds ahead of the rest of his field.

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Street theatre opens new paths of communication in India

By Julie Culver and Meg Taintor
Staff Writers

In India, Dr. Padma Venkataramen calls herself simply "woman." In explaining this to a group of Middlebury students this week, she stated that she felt wary of using the word "feminist" to describe herself, but that she identified strongly with what she referred to as "women's studies."

In her lecture on March 3rd, she outlined the institutions which shape the roles of women in Indian society, primarily religion, caste, class, family, and the state. Dr. Venkataramen is one of the founding members of the theater troupe Voicing Silence, which focuses on the roles of women in the patriarchal society of modern India.

Voicing Silence takes the play, "Pachamannu" (Newborn), to crowded market-places and village centers in rural communities to provoke conversations and debate over the conflict of female infanticide and foeticide. On the video Venkataramen showed at her lecture, "Gender and Cultural Institutions in India," one of the members of the troupe commented that the aim of the troupe was not necessarily to provide solutions, but rather to provoke thought, shake beliefs and educate. She likened their aim to creating ripples of water by disturbing the complacency of a society which does not question its traditions.

Professor of Theatre, Richard Romagnoli, was struck by the trans-cultural similarities in the techniques used by the theatre troupe Voicing Silence and by many American social action theatre groups such as those that promoted voter registration in the Civil Rights Movement, and championed the cause of labor unions. Venkataramen remarked on this trans-cultural aspect of her theater: "There are a lot of—if not sameness—a lot of similarities in our ways of living...though we come from opposite ends of the world."

The theatre of Venkataramen's troupe draws both on the tradition of feminist theatre in the western world and on the ceremonial songs and dances of Indian women during their three-workshop creation process. In one such collaboration, the traditional ceremony celebrating a girl's entrance into maturity is subverted through the use of jarring imagery and non-traditional lyrics to this ceremony's familiar song.

Whereas in the real-life ceremony the girl is dressed in the traditional sari, the performance replaces the sari with a net under which they trap her.

Venkataramen came as a lecturer, but also shared her performance skills in a montage that called to mind the theater of Anna Deavere Smith, with one actor portraying many characters.

All of the actors in the troupe are more than performers: each is an activist in his or her own right. They come from varied backgrounds and castes, but all are concerned with bringing to the surface the hidden ("un-voiced") problems of women's lives in modern India.

The name of the group alone, "Voicing Silence," implies a breaking of a cultural taboo: the vocalization by women of their issues and concerns.

However, as Venkataramen noted with a smile, "We always had modes of speaking." Voicing Silence opens up a new mode of communication between the actors and the audience.

Vermont artists measure up to New York standards

(continued from page 17)

content largely to ape the styles first of Johns and Louis, then of Stella.

Jules Olitski did develop a style of his own, or, more appropriately, a technique that he could call his own. He sprayed, rather than stained, paint onto the canvases, thereby eliminating line and shape from his paintings. He created what Solomon described as "a complex mass of lush, variegated color," wherein different colors blend and overlap, seemingly competing for our attention. After staring at these paintings for a good long while, even, it is doubtful if any of the colors will hold one's attention; the paintings seem to be of the type where "if you've seen one, you've seen them all." Olitski's sculptures, however, do not share this interchangeable quality. One work, "King Kong," was recently placed outside Johnson Hall here at Middlebury. Though one can hardly call them breathtaking or groundbreaking, Olitski's sculptures are as diverse and surprising as his paintings are dull and mundane. Unfortunately, Olitski's sculptures were excluded from this New York exhibition.

People may no longer realize that some of the most highly praised American art of the late twentieth century came from the Vermont

Caro's sculpture, however, was on display. By looking at his works, we can see why Caro alone has survived among these formalist artists of 1960s Vermont. He produced his sculptures from industrial materials — an idea which, though not new, was being used at the time by artists that were both liked and disliked by Greenberg. Caro also painted his sculptures, thereby melding two media.

Though Greenberg discouraged this blending, even going so far as to strip the paint off pieces by the sculptor David Smith after that artist's death, Caro went ahead with it anyway, and it is now impossible to imagine his sculptures without the paint. Caro places his sculptures on the floor, part of a general trend that gradually phased out the pedestal, and he constantly worked from this idea so that his pieces seem perfectly at home there.

Caro survived in part because he did not attach himself as rigidly to formalist dogma as his Green Mountain contemporaries did; rather, he always kept an eye out for other artistic developments and used them as inspiration for his own art. But even the gallery space and ink devoted to Caro is minuscule compared to what it was in the mid-1960s, the period when he, Noland and Olitski reached the height of their artistic achievement. A countercultural trend in the late sixties, combining aspects of pop and minimal art — two of the formalist mentor Greenberg's artistic pet peeves — made formalism seem hopelessly stale and outdated and out of touch with reality.

By 1970, formalist theory was dead, and Greenberg and his circle faded from view. Like the celebrated Salon painters of 19th-century France, the Green Mountain Boys may be forgotten altogether a hundred years from now. People may no longer realize that some of the most highly praised American art of the late twentieth century came from the Vermont countryside. Yet the four "Green Mountain Boys" made their respective artistic marks in their own time, and deserve to be remembered even as their doctrine and style brand them as anachronisms.

Arts Smarts

Movies

Friday, March 6

7:00p.m. & 9:30p.m.
Con Air. A recently paroled ex-con hitches a ride on the Con Air transport flight and finds himself embroiled in a mid-air highjacking. Admission $1.
Dana Auditorium

Saturday, March 7

7:30p.m.
Three Lives and Only One Death. A comedy designed by filmmaker Raul Ruiz for Mastroianni. The film unfolds in four parts, each featuring the legendary star in bizarre circumstances which utilize what one critic called his unique blend of "insanity and rationality." (In French with English subtitles).
Dana Auditorium

Performances

Thursday, March 5

4:30p.m.
Reading: John Elder. John Elder reads from his forthcoming book (spring, Harvard University Press), "Reading the Mountains of Home," a sequence of personal narratives that connect the natural and human history of the Green Mountains with Frost's poem "Directive."
Bowker House

8:00p.m.
Rehearsal: Sound Investment (Middlebury's Jazz Ensemble). Come to Sound Investment's open rehearsal and help to bring jazz back to Middlebury. All are welcome.
Johnson 304

8:00p.m.
"The Dumb Waiter." By Harold Pinter. A comedy about two small time crooks in a restaurant basement. Independent project of Matthew Grodd '99. Tickets $1.
Hepburn Zoo

Friday, March 6

5:15p.m.
"The Boundary." By Tom Stoppard and Clive Exton. A verbal romp into the caprices of two lexicographers and the mysteriously missing Brenda.
Gifford Annex Lounge

8:00p.m.
Creach/Koester: Men Dancing. Master classes, workshops, and performances of "Study for a Resurrection," a new work developed by artistic director Terry Creach in collaboration with his company of "five ravishing dancers" (two of them being Peter Schmitz of Middlebury Dance faculty and Paul Matteson '96), designers and musicians. Please be advised that this event contains moments of nudity.
Admission $4 General, $3 Faculty/Staff/Seniors, $2 Middlebury Students.
Arts Center Dance Theater.

8:00p.m.
"The Dumb Waiter." (Please Thursday's listing for details).

8:00p.m.
"The Boundary." (Please see 5:15p.m. listing for details)

8:00p.m.
"It Might as Well be Spring." The Dick Forman Jazz Group plays mainstream jazz, with Forman at the piano. The evening will also feature Don Stearns on saxophones, Glendon Ingalls on trumpet and flugelhorn, Jim Daggs on bass, and Pat Knightly '98 on drums.
Arts Center Concert Hall

10:00p.m.
First Fridays Cultural Coffeehouse: Newark Balkan Chorus. "...the Newark Balkan Chorus is every bit as inspiring as its music." —Yankee Magazine, January 1998. Serving gourmet coffees.
Arts Center Rehearsals Cafe

Saturday, March 7

8:00p.m.
Concert: Music Department Voice Faculty. Carol Christensen, soprano; Beth Thompson Kaiser, soprano; Lia Kahler, mezzo-soprano; Daniel March, tenor; Paul Orgel, piano. Composers include Danizetti, Faure, Schubert, Argento, Meyerbeer, Schumann, Handel, Duparc, and Puccini.
Arts Center Concert Hall

8:00p.m.
"The Dumb Waiter." (Please see Thursday's listing for details).

8:00p.m.
Creach/Koester: Men Dancing. (Please see Friday's listing for details).

Sunday, March 8

3:00p.m.
"Our Fathers' Daughters." A dramatic presentation of writings by six women on the death of their fathers. Directed by Carl Forsman '94 with music composed by Ellen Lindquist '94. Performers include Harriet Brickman, Rosalyn Driscoll, Rachel Ferris Jenkins, Andrea Olsen, Kiki Smith, and Anne Woodhull with cellist Deborah Sherr.
Arts Center Dance Theater.

3:00p.m.
"The Three Musicians." A trio composed of Middlebury's Su Lian Tan on flute, John Arnold of Bennington College on guitar, and Robert La Rue on cello. Allen Shawn, pianist, will be a special guest. The program includes Su Lian Tan's Invention and Sinfonia and Journal (1996), by Allen Shawn.
Arts Center Concert Hall.

Monday, March 9

8:00p.m.
Piano Recital: Students of Diana Fanning. Performers include Amy Karr '99, Eun Ha Kim '98, Dauvin Peterson '01, Kate Stevens '00, and Christopher Sullivan '00. The program includes works by Beethoven, Gershwin, Rachmaninov, Chopin, Brahms, and the Grenados.
Arts Center Concert Hall.

Lectures

Thursday, March 5

3:00p.m.
Partnering Workshop. Taught by members of the Creach/Koester Dance Co.
Arts Center Dance Theater

4:30p.m.
Lighting for Dance with Designer Roma Flowers. Taught by members of the Creach/Koester Dance Co.
Arts Center Dance Theater

Friday, March 6

2:30p.m.
Advanced Improvisation. Taught by members of the Creach/Koester Dance Co.
Arts Center Dance Theater

Saturday, March 6

4:00p.m.
A Tribute to Marcello Mastroianni. A panel of Middlebury College professors, including Sandra Carletti, David Castronuovo, Ugo Skubikowski, Tom Van Order, and Patricia Zupan will show and discuss their favorite scenes from Marcello Mastroianni films as a tribute to this late, great star of international cinema.
Dana Auditorium

Skiers qualify for Division I Nationals at Carnival

(continued from page 24)

The nordic women improved on their Friday finish, edging out Bates to take third behind UVM and Dartmouth on Saturday in the freestyle race. Angst again led the Panthers, with a sixth place. Boyle, Kaylor, Dumond, and Kulmatiski backed her up, all placing in the top twenty, in twelveth, fourteenth, sixteenth, and nineteenth respectively. Lucy Roberts '00 saw some Carnival action, and placed extremely well, racing into 27th.

The alpine men were wrestling with a tight turny slalom course on Saturday, as the nordic men were gliding to victory in the 20km freestyle. The alpine men were able to retain third for the day despite some of the same difficulties as the alpine women. Silver turned in two fast runs to place fifth, while Carey managed to place thirteenth although he had to hike second run. Stephen Anderson contributed to the Panther effort with a fifteenth, while Ippolito snuck into the top twenty with a nineteenth.

The nordic men avenged their narrow loss to UVM the previous day by tying them for first in the freestyle. Giese was the top man, turning in a third just thirty seconds behind second day winner Thorodd Bakken. Johnson was right behind him in fifth. Rawstron stayed consistent to the previous day, turning in another seventh. Whitcomb and Beckwith again made the top twenty, placing sixteenth and seventeenth respectively.

At the conclusion of the Middlebury Carnival, which serves as the EISA Eastern Championships, the final season rankings are computed and the EISA All-East teams are named. It also acts as a qualifier to the Division I Nationals, which will be held in Bozeman, Montana this year. Middlebury racers received a number of honors and had several qualifiers for Nationals.

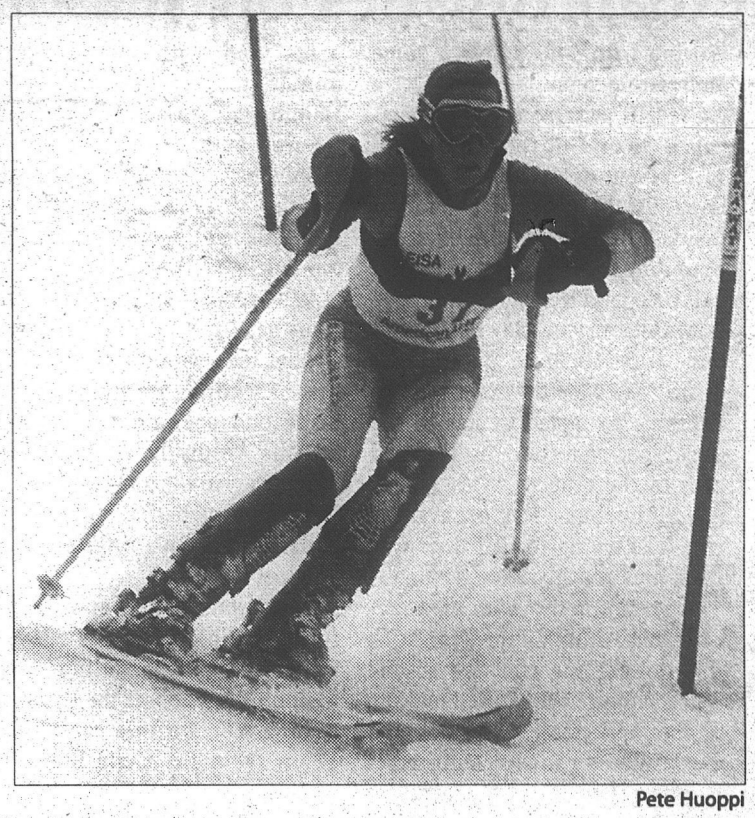
For the season-long alpine honors, Berntsen was named to the All East First Team. Laundon, Carey, and Anderson were all named to the All-East Second Team. Davenport finished the season in seventh in the Giant Slalom rankings, with Berntsen right behind her in eighth. The men fared well in the Giant Slalom results as well, with Carey in fifth and Anderson in seventh.

The women's Slalom rankings were even better, with Berntsen maintaining a number three ranking, followed by Laundon in the number four spot.

In addition, the alpine team had eleven qualifiers to the Nationals. Berntsen, Laundon, Davenport, Hosmer, and Gerety will compete for the women, and Carey, Anderson, Silver, Webster, Barron, and Ippolito qualified for the men.

On the nordic scene, both Andrew Johnson and Chad Giese were named to the All-East First Team.

Qualifiers for the nordic Nationals were Kulmatiski, Angst, Boyle, Dumond, and Kaylor for the women. For the men, Johnson, Giese, Rawstron, Beckwith, Helminski, and Whitcomb all qualified.



Pete Huoppi

Trina Hosmer '00 races to a 21st finish after a tough first run in the slalom

Basketball defeats final two opponents

(continued from page 22)

and a feisty effort from the Dutchwomen of Union College. Despite an 8-16 record, Union's freshman and sophomore-laden squad was able to hang with Middlebury for the first half. Middlebury carried just a 31-27 edge at half-time. However, in the second half, Middlebury's veteran leadership, combined with timely outside shooting, carried them to a decisive 83-57 win. Although shooting just 38% from the field for the game, the Panthers hit 7 of 11 three pointers in the second half.

Langlois led the three-point barrage, hitting on 5 of 8 attempts on her way to 21 points. Brown nailed five three-point field goals of her own en route to 18 points. McCarthy recorded a double-double, scoring a game-high 23 points while grabbing 12 boards. Showing off her all-around game once again, Peterson was just three assists shy of a triple-double, recording 11 points, 14 boards, and 7 assists.

Knowing that they needed victories in both games to secure an NCAA bid, the Panthers did a good job of keeping their focus during a hectic final week of regular season competition. "Even though we tried not to discuss the post season, the kids knew what was going on—they knew these were must-win games," Coach Fulcher commented afterwards. "The team wants to make the season special for the three seniors, as well. Our destiny was in our own hands, so we had a lot of motivation to win these games."

Receiving word that the club had received an at-large invitation to the NCAA tournament, Coach Fulcher summed up her team's feelings, saying "we're thrilled." She notes also that "Western Connecticut State is a very good team. They are athletic, have good size, and possess a tradition of success."

Given the fourth seed in the Northeast bracket, Western Connecticut State (21-6) has been a perennial power in Division III. They reached the sweet sixteen of the tournament last year and know what it takes to win. The winner will take on the University of Southern Maine (25-2), the number one seed, in the second round on Saturday.

Women's hockey seeded first in ECAC Tournament

(continued from page 24)

players scored in the 9-1 win. First-year sensation Michelle Labbe led all scorers with two goals as the Panthers jumped out in the first period with a six goal lead. Besides Labbe's two first-period goals, Katie Lynch '01, Stephanie Hill '98, Pullins, and McDougall also scored for the Panthers.

The Connecticut defense managed to contain Middlebury in the second period, but some new Middlebury scorers came to the forefront in the third period. First-years Elissa Burnell and Jen Bahnson, and sophomore Sarah Hall each netted their first goals of the season to finish the scoring for the Panthers.

With these two blowout wins, the Panthers finished the season with a perfect 16-0 record in the ECAC Alliance. Middlebury also has built up it's ECAC Alliance domination to 50 wins and no losses, which is extremely impressive in such a strong league. Throughout the season, Middlebury has been led by first-year Michelle Labbe and sophomore Sylvia Ryan. Labbe has had an outstanding first season, and she first on the team with assists (30) and second in goals (23).

Ryan has proved to be Labbe's complement, as she is the team's leading goal scorer (30) and second in assists (18). Catherine Pullins and Janice O'Neil also are top point scorers for Middlebury, as are the two Panther goalies, Beth Denoncourt and Kristin Hackmann.

These players will be looked upon to provide leadership and strength during Middlebury's post-season play. This weekend, Middlebury will host the ECAC Alliance Tournament for the third season in a row. Not surprisingly, the Panthers are the top seed in the tournament, and will face #4 seed Bowdoin on Saturday at 5:00pm.

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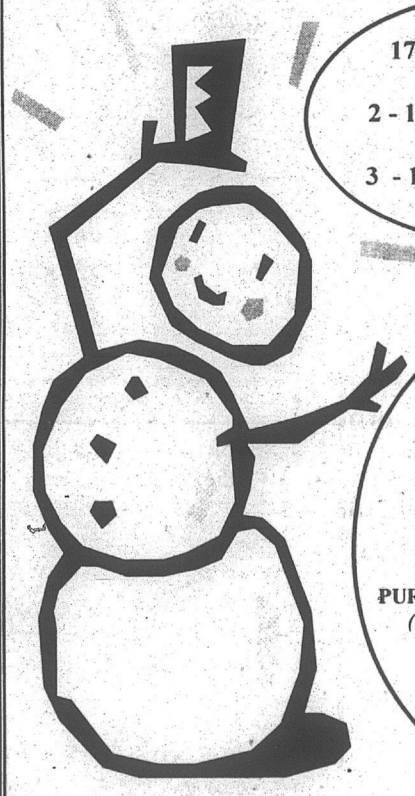

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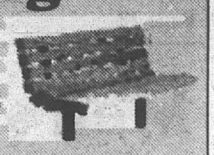


By Chris Morgan
Sports Editor

When Latrell Sprewell had his contract terminated by the Golden State Warriors, we thought that teams were finally standing up to their misbehaved players. When the NBA suspended Sprewell for one year, we thought that the league was finally saying that a basketball player cannot act anyway he feels. According to an arbitrator, however, players can act in any way they choose with fear of only minor repercussions.

The ruling by the arbitrator in the Sprewell case stated that Sprewell will be paid the remaining $16.3 million of his contract, and will be eligible to play again as of July 1. The arbitrator stated that while a team can impose a penalty, and the league can penalize a misbehaving player, both cannot reprimand a player. However, the arbitrator then took it one step further by giving Sprewell a lesser penalty than the NBA had chosen and ordered that the Warriors reinstate his contract. One has to ask, does this mean that the arbitrator thinks that it is okay for a player to attack his coach?

The Warriors' contract with Sprewell stated that the player had to "conform to standards of good citizenship and good moral character" and prohibits "engaging in acts of moral turpitude." Yet the arbitrator still reinstated his contract. Is assault considered part of good citizenship? What would it take to get a contract revoked? If Sprewell's teammates had not pulled him away from Carlisimo and he had continued to attack Carlisimo, would that have been an "act of moral turpitude" ? The player's union contested the charge concerning whether Sprewell ever actually landed a punch, but does that make a difference? The intent was still there. Sprewell had already attempted to choke Carlisimo, and the punch followed twenty minutes later. If this is not an immoral act I do not know what is.

The players' union should be equally ashamed of their attempts to get Sprewell off. Union president Billy Hunter stated following the ruling, "The decision is a victory that is shared by Latrell and the other 400 members of our union. It reaffirms the sanctity of guaranteed contracts in the NBA." Has Hunter even read the contract? If the issue was the sanctity of contract then Sprewell's contract should have been revoked, unless of course the players' union believes that Sprewell's attack was of good moral character.

The league and the Warriors finally took a stand against players who act like children. Across the sporting world, athletes seem to believe that they can do whatever they choose without thinking about their actions. The original Sprewell decision served as a warning to players around the league to play nice or face the consequences. With the arbitrator's ruling players are left to their own devices with little concern for their actions.

Men's Basketball finishes off season with a loss to Hamilton

By Peter Jacoby
Staff Writer

The men's basketball did not finish their season as they had wanted to, but they ended the year with a decent record and a lot of hope for the future. After a 94-78 loss to Hamilton last Tuesday, the team finished the year with a 9-15 record overall.

Going into the game, the Panthers wanted to finish with a victory at home to obtain their tenth win, but in a game which included numerous technical fouls and an ejection, it was not to be for the Panthers.

Men's basketball
Tuesday, February 24th

Middlebury	78
Hamilton	94

They fell behind early to a strong Hamilton team, but were able to stay close and with five minutes remaining in the first half, they were only down 33-29. To close out the half, Middlebury went on a 5-0 run led in part by first-year point guard Chris McLaughlin who took control of the court. The Panthers were within two at the half, 40-38 and went into the break ready to come out and take control in the second half.

The problem was that their opponent was a very talented Hamilton team including the top scorer and rebounders in the league. Michael Schantz leads NESCAC in scoring with 24.0 points a game and also in rebounds with 12.2 a game. His teammate, Jon Schmiegal, is second in the league with 11.7 rebounds a game. The Panthers just did not have the bodies inside to compete with that rebounding prowess and the second half belonged to Hamilton.

Middlebury quickly fell behind and, with 10:30 to play in the game, they were down 64-46. The Panthers struggled to stay in the game, but were hurt by two bad calls by the officials. With 3:30 to go, Middlebury was on a small run, and trying to pull their way back into it.

A Hamilton shot with a few seconds remaining on the shot clock did not hit the rim and so the clock should have expired making it Panther possession, but the clock operator inadvertently reset it, giving them 35 more seconds of possession.

The officials refused to change the call and Coach Jeff Brown could not believe it as he screamed at the referees about it. Hamilton ended up scoring and taking all momentum away from Panthers pulling ahead 84-69 with 2:05 remaining.

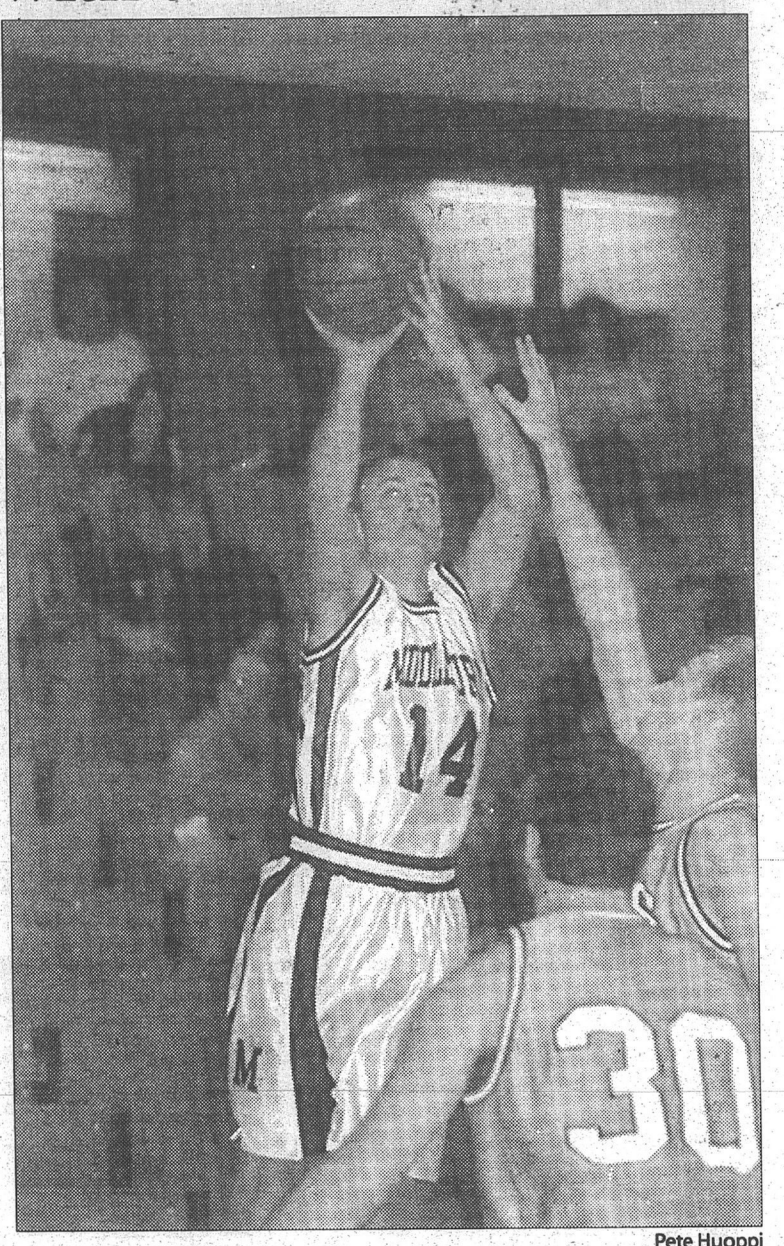
Middlebury could have given up, but they knew that it was their last game of the season and that of their careers for seniors Greg Poulos, Adam Boffey, Dave Frye, and Matt Lasek. The Panthers kept attacking and pressing their opponents, and with just under a minute to play, they held the Hamilton guards in the back court for well over 10 seconds, which should have prompted a whistle for the violation. The officials again missed the call and this was too much for Brown.

When Brown came onto the court yelling at the officials, it was all that they would take from the first-year coach. Brown picked up his second technical foul. For this, he was promptly ejected. With their coach in the locker room, the Panthers finished the game and their season with little emotion and lost 94-78.

Middlebury is a team with a future, sporting numerous talented underclassmen including Chad Malone '01, who was the Panther's leading scorer with a career-high 17 on the night. Craig Breen '00 picked up 13 on three for six three-point shooting while McLaughlin and John Hart '01 each collected 10 points. Poulos finished the year as the team's leading scorer averaging 14.3 points per game, but Hamilton kept him quiet in this game and held him to only six.

With a solid nucleus of players returning next season, the Panthers will retain seven players who averaged double digits in minutes this year.

Look for the Panthers to emerge next year as a team to beat in the ever-competitive NESCAC.



Pete Huoppi
The young men's basketball team will look to junior John Maletis next year.

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Dr. Ayres earned his Bachelors of Science in Biology with Honors from Trinity College in Hartford, Connecticut and went on to New York Medical College for his Doctor of Medicine degree. He was an Orthopedic Surgical Resident at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota and completed his Surgical Internship at Dartmouth Affiliated Hospitals in Hanover, New Hampshire. Dr. Ayres is Board Certified in Orthopedics and is a member of the medical staff at Porter Hospital.
Previously, Dr. Ayres was in solo practices in Sanford, Maine; Newport Claremont, New Hampshire; and Springfield Vermont and in a group practice in Charlestown, New Hampshire. Additionally, Dr. Ayres practiced with the public Health Service in Seattle, Washington.

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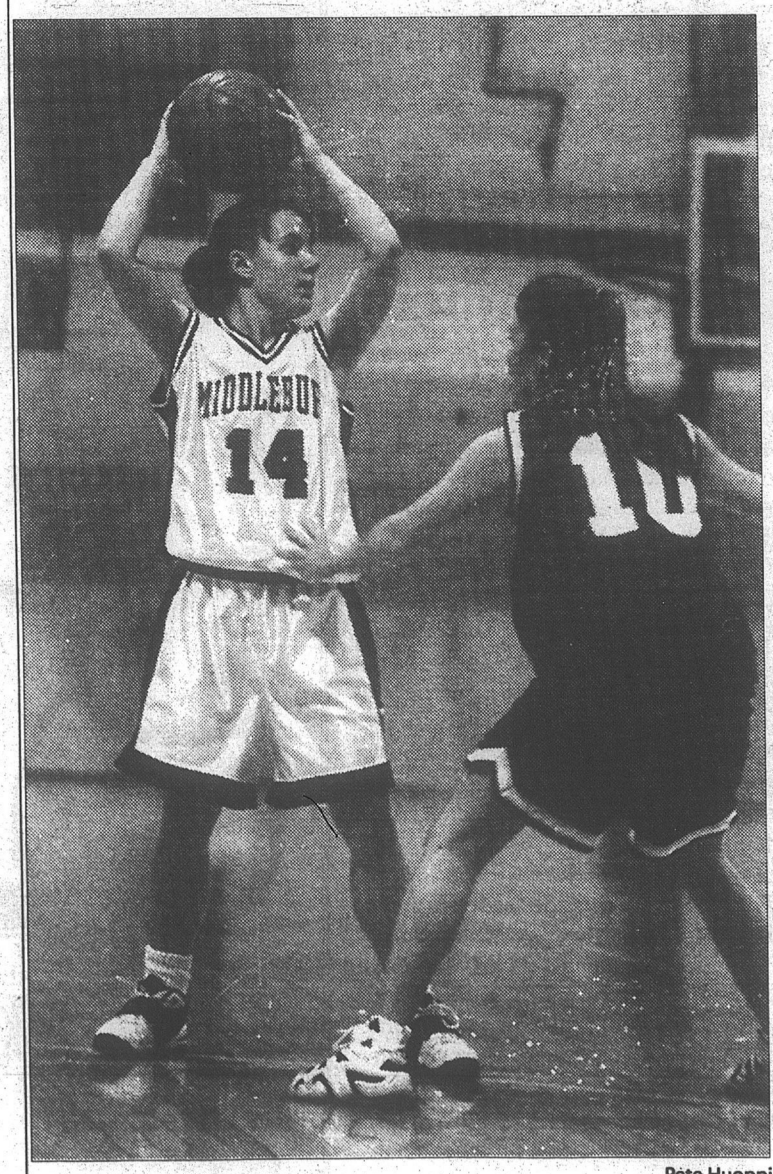
Women's basketball makes NCAAs

By Scott Cacciola
Staff Writer

Late Sunday evening, the word came from the NCAA that the Middlebury women's basketball team would not have the opportunity to defend their ECAC Championship. Instead, the team is going to the "Big Dance." Receiving the fifth seed in the Northeast Region of the NCAA Division III Women's Basketball Tournament, the Panthers (20-4) will travel to Danbury, Connecticut to take on Western Connecticut State on Wednesday evening.



Pete Huoppi
Dawn Trowbridge '00 has be instrumental in the team's success this season.

Before receiving the bid however, the Panthers had to win their final two regular season games in order to secure a place in the tournament. In facing Hamilton and Union Colleges, two teams with a combined record of 11-36, the Panthers knew they couldn't let themselves become overconfident. Coach Fulcher noted that despite their relatively poor records, "Hamilton and Union were in the midst of playing their best basketball of the season. Knowing that these two games were must-wins for us in terms of making the NCAA's, both teams were fired up about the possibility of knowing a team out of the tournament—not to mention the fact that we were playing both teams on their Senior Nights in their home gyms."

The women first squared off against Hamilton (3-20) in Clinton, New York last Tuesday. Hamilton took an early 5-2 lead, but that would be their only lead. Middlebury quickly went on a 15-0 run and carried a 42-28 lead into the locker room at half-time. Hamilton closed to within 10, 54-44, early in the second half, but Middlebury pulled away for an 87-67 victory. Heather Langlois '00 keyed the Panther offensive attack hitting 4 of 8 three-pointers, scoring a game-high 21 points. Chrissy Peterson '99, Kelly McCarthy '99 and senior Lauren Brown each reached double figures with 14, 13, and 11 points respectively. Joanna Wolkowski '99 grabbed a team-high 11 rebounds in the victory.

Returning to upstate New York on Thursday afternoon, the Panthers weathered both a snowstorm

(see Basketball, page 21)

Swimming dominates at New Englands

By Jennifer DeLeonardo
Sports Editor

The funny hairdos of the Men's Swim team the week leading up to the New England Championships hid the slick shaved speed that would erupt during the meet, as the team achieved several historical firsts.

As a team, the Panthers swam to third place behind Williams and Amherst. Individually, they qualified more competitors for NCAA Division III Nationals than ever in the history of the team. Six school records, two individual and four relay, were broken. Three of these relay teams placed first in their events, a feat the team has never before been able to accomplish.

Individuals turned out outstanding results all around. Junior co-captain J.P. Gowdy had stellar results as usual. He won the 200IM in the NCAA "A"(automatic) time of 1:51.96. He also won the 400IM, again meeting the NCAA "A" cut in a time of 4:01.36, allowing him to return to Nationals to defend his title from last year. These two wins were hardly enough for him, as he went on to capture the 100IM title in :52.35. He then combined with his teamates in the winning 200 free, 400 free, and 800 free relays, qualifying for the NCAA "B" cut on the way yet again with his first leg, 100m time of 45.95 in the 400 free relay. He also swam a leg of the 400 medley relay; although this team placed second, it still qualified for the NCAA "B" cut and broke yet another Middlebury record. His amazing six wins and one second left no doubt; Gowdy was named the 1998 New England Swimmer of the Meet.

Sophomore Ian Doherty had an excellent day as well. He started it off by breaking the school record on his way to second in the 200 back. He also made the NCAA "B" cut in this event with his time of 1:53.70. He picked up two more seconds, one in the 100 back with another NCAA "B" qualifying time, and the second in the 50 back. He then went on to combine with his fellow Panther teamates to place first in the 400 free and 800 free relays, fifth in the 200 medly relay, and second in the 400 medly relay.

David Shomaker '00 also had a record-breaking day. In the 200 free, he raced to a time of 1:44.41, setting a new Middlebury record and placing sixth. In the 50 free, he placed fourth with a time of :21.27, qualifying him for the NCAAs "A" cut. He went on to place ninth in the 100 free, and returned to combine with teamates for firsts in the record-breaking, NCAA "A" qualifying 200 free, 400 free, and 800 free relays and a second in the similar record-breaking, qualifying 400 medley relay.

Mike Larsen '99 proved himself a strong competitor too. After picking up a third in the 200 IM in the NCAA "B" qualifying time of 1:56.47, he went on to place eleventh in the 200 free, third in the 100 free, and be a part of the champion 400 free and 800 free relays.

First-year standout Alex Klose had a successful premiere New England meet as well. He was the top Middlebury finisher in the 50 breast with a ninth, the 100 breast with a fifth, and the 200 breast with a fourth. He also contributed his abilities to the second place, NCAA "B" qualifying, school record-breaking 400 medley relay.

Sophomore Ben Stucker swam solidly, coming up with a seventh in the 100 free, a thirteenth in the 50 free, and a fourteenth in the 200 free. He also earned himself a school record and a NCAA "B" qualifying time along with the rest of his 200 free relay team.

Adam Sobek '99 became a name associated with excellence and versatility, with his contribution to the winning, record-breaking, NCAA "B" qualifying 200 free relay and his eighths in the 100 IM and 500 fly.

Sophomores Matt Fiorentino and Mark Williams posted solid results in the 50 breast and 200 breast. Fiorentino was tenth and eleventh respectively and Williams was fifteenth and eighth respectively. First-year John Robertson also posted a tenth in the 400 IM.

Junior Will Peters led the diving contingent with a twelveth in the 3-meter and a fourteenth in 1-meter competition.

However, the relays were the biggest source of Panther pride and surprise. Middlebury closed their competition down, winning three out of the five relay events and placing second and fifth in the other two. The three wins came in the three freestyle relays, showing that no other team could match the depth and skill of the Panthers in this stoke.

The men started their domination with the 200 free relay. The combined efforts of Shomaker, Sobek, Stucker, and Gowdy resulted in a speedy time of 1:24.09, with an average leg time of just :21.02. This was the fastest time ever recorded by Middlebury men. The race was good for a first in the meet, and met the NCAA "B" qualifying standard.

They moved on to take the 400 free relay, with Shomaker, Larsen, Doherty, and Gowdy combining for the school record time of 3:06.40 in the win. This time also met the NCAA "B" standard.

For the 800 free relay, the same foursome got together again, shuffled the swimming positions of Shomaker and Larsen (with Larsen now swimming first, Shomaker second, Doherty third, and Gowdy anchor), and came in for their another win, another record, and another qualifying time.

Doherty, Gowdy, and Shomaker picked up Klose for the 400 medley and were almost able to do it again. They just missed, coming in second. They were somewhat consoled however; their time of 3:28.60 still broke the school record and qualified them for the NCAAs "B" standard.

The men will travel to the NCAA Nationals in St. Louis, MI on March 19-21.

Phat Air!

Pete Huoppi

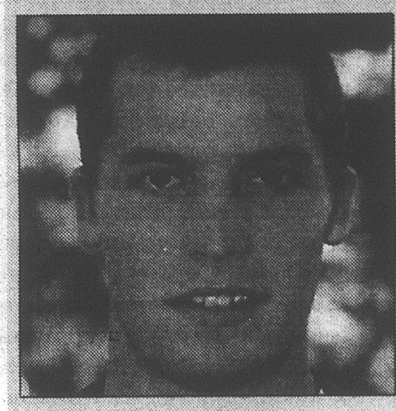
With a sweet method, *sophomore Josh Gordon decided to take a break from studying during Winter Carnival and headed to the Middlebury College Snow Bowl to enjoy fresh snow and warm temperatures.*

Captain's Corner
Nordic Skiing

By Emily Boyle '97.5
and
Chad Giese '98

The abundant snowfall this winter has helped propel the Middlebury nordic ski team to another successful season. The training, which began September 8, has successfully prepared us for the upcoming Division I NCAA Nationals in Bozeman, MT.

The depth and experience on this team has led us to many strong results throughout the seaason. During the pre-Carnival season the team traveled to Quebec for some quality training with an effective cross-training session at the Dago Bert (led by Patty Ross-Tran). The Olympic Trials and World Juniors were also integral components in getting this team ready to kick the Carnival circuit. Although Nagano was a near miss for some, such as Dave "Gramps" Jareckie, Andrew Johnson kicked some Euro butt at World Juniors in Switzerland before coming back to Midd for the last half of the carnival season. The season has been a bit of a roller coaster ride, but the team has pulled it together for the last half to give the Norwegian recruits of UVM a run for the money. SHOW ME THE MONEY!!



Chad Giese '98

The men's team has accumulated many tight second place finishes, often decided by a mere point or two, along with victories at Dartmouth and Middlebury Carnivals.

The team has been led by Capt'n Chad Giese and Andrew "LBJ" Johnson, backed by rookie points leader Will Rawstron, Justin "boy" Beckwith, Matt "I love Katie Gould" Whitcomb, and Shams. Fighting for the last carnival spot were Erik "red on the head" Goldwarg and Gramps, both recieving the occasional honor.

Emily Boyle '97.5

The team missed the one, two punch of Antarctica bound Eli Enman and Tim Morse, while Misha Coggeshall-Burr was contemplating a world of his own.

The women's team has proved to be a force in the east, consistently battling it out with the top three teams. The team was led by captain Emily "the college grad" Boyle and Anna "uhhhhh" Kulmatiski, supported by Lara "Is this cancer or a zit" Dumond, Marne "Come to the dark side" Gunderson, Susan "Alaskan happy hour" Angst and rookie points leader Tamsen Kaylor.

The team had to look west to find the fine backing from Raena "homeboy" Schraer, Lucy "the Lucinator" Roberts and Andrea "politically correct" Hatten.

This weekend a group of elite althletes sporting really big bags and phat Spyder jackets (hey its not our fault!) will travel to Bozeman, MT to show the nation who is boss in the ski world.

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Alpine and nordic skiers claim third at Middlebury Carnival

By Jennifer DeLeonardo
Sports Editor

Sunny skies and fast skis were the order of the weekend as the Panther alpine and nordic ski teams competed in the EISA Eastern Championships at the 75th Annual Middlebury Winter Carnival.

The teams combined to take third overall for the weekend, behind first-place UVM and a mere three points behind Dartmouth. All of the teams skied well, with some outstanding event and individual results.The women's alpine and nordic teams captured the combined third for the weekend, while the men edged out Dartmouth for a second.

On Friday, giant slalom and 5km Classical were on the agenda for the women. In the giant slalom team results, the alpine women placed third behind UVM and Dartmouth. Hedda Berntsen '00 headed up the Middlebury effort for the day, placing fifth, one second behind winner Marie-Michel Tasse of Williams. Brooke Laundon '00 was second for Middlebury, racing to a tenth place finish. Kirstin Gerety '98 and Trina Hosmer also broke into the top twenty, placing fifteenth and seventeenth respectively.

Over at Rikert, the women's nordic team was racing into a fourth place finish behind UVM, Dartmouth, and UNH. First-year Susan Angst was tops for the Panthers in seventh, 42 seconds behind Jessica Smith of Dartmouth's winning time of 17:40.5. Sophomore Anna Kulmatiski followed her in fifteenth place, while fellow sophomore Lara Dumond ended up in seventeenth place. Emily Boyle '98 and Tamsen Kaylor '01 rounded out the results, in nineteenth and twenty-first place.

Meanwhile, the alpine men were also tackling the giant slalom while the nordic men raced a 10km Classical race. The alpine men placed fourth in the giant slalom with UVM, Dartmouth, and Saint Lawrence University edging them out in a very competitive race. Senior Stephen Anderson led the Middlebury pack in fifth, with Jeff Ippolito '99, Josh Silver '99, and Adam Barron '00 all squeezing into the top fifteen with twelveth, fourteenth, and fifteenth places respectively. The nordic men were busy over at Rikert turning out excellent results. They placed second to UVM by just one point, beating third place Bates by a wide margin of nine points. The Panthers had four men in the top ten, with Andrew Johnson '00 taking second just behind Norwiegan Thorodd Bakken of UVM. Chad Giese '98 was less than a minute behind him in fifth, while Will Rawstron '00 and Shams Helminski '00 beat out some tough competition for the seventh and tenth spots. Justin Beckwith '01 was a strong fifth man in fifteenth, while Matt Whitcomb '01 raced to a nineteenth finish, displaying Middlebury's depth with an unparalleled six men placing in the top twenty.

Saturday was slalom day for the women's alpine team, while the nordic women hit the trails for the 15km freestyle. Although only two Middlebury women finished the slalom without incidence, the women still managed to retain second on the day after leading coming in the first run. Berntsen was the college victor of the day, second behind Green Mountain Valley School's Alexandra Krebs, who did not count. Kirstin Gerety skied two solid runs for sixth. Hosmer was Middlebury's third finisher in 21st, coming back with a speedy second run after having to hike the first run. Laundon, who was in second behind Krebs after the first run, suffered some bad luck in the second run, skiing out of the course and having to hike up at least two gates to finish. Ashley Davenport '00 suffered similar luck in the first run.

(see Skiers, page 21)

Pete Huoppi

Lara Dumond '00 gets ahead of her competitors in the mass start at Rikert.

Women's track shines at Division I Championships

By Erin Dempsey
Staff Writer

Just a handful of Middlebury's top female track and field athletes made the trip to Smith College this past weekend for the Division I New England Championships. Qualifying for this competitive meet is impressive enough, but even more remarkable were Middlebury's final results. The team placed thirteenth overall, and in Division III schools, the Panthers were second only to Wheaton College.

The greatest individual performance of the meet was turned in by first-year Kate Irvin in the mile run. Irvin qualified for the finals with her initial run of 5:13.32. The next day, she placed sixth overall with an even faster time of 5:08.9. Also giving a strong performance in the mile run was senior veteran Katy Masselam. who narrowly missed making the finals by less than a second.

Irvin was also part of the awe-inspiring 3200 meter relay which consisted of first-years Katie DeNiro and Kasie Wallace, as well as 800 meter extraordinaire Annah Heitkamp '00. The team captured third place with a time of 9:25.32, each member averaging roughly 2:21 for her leg.

DeNiro had a strong showing in the 400 meters, placing seventeenth with a time of 1:01.57. First-year Laura Ford continues to improve in the 600 meters, bringing her time down to 1:22.8. Aside from the relay, Heitkamp competed in the open 800 meters, finishing in tenth place with a time of 2:20.37.

Wallace also had a strong showing aside from her relay performance, as she finished ninth in the 1000 meters.

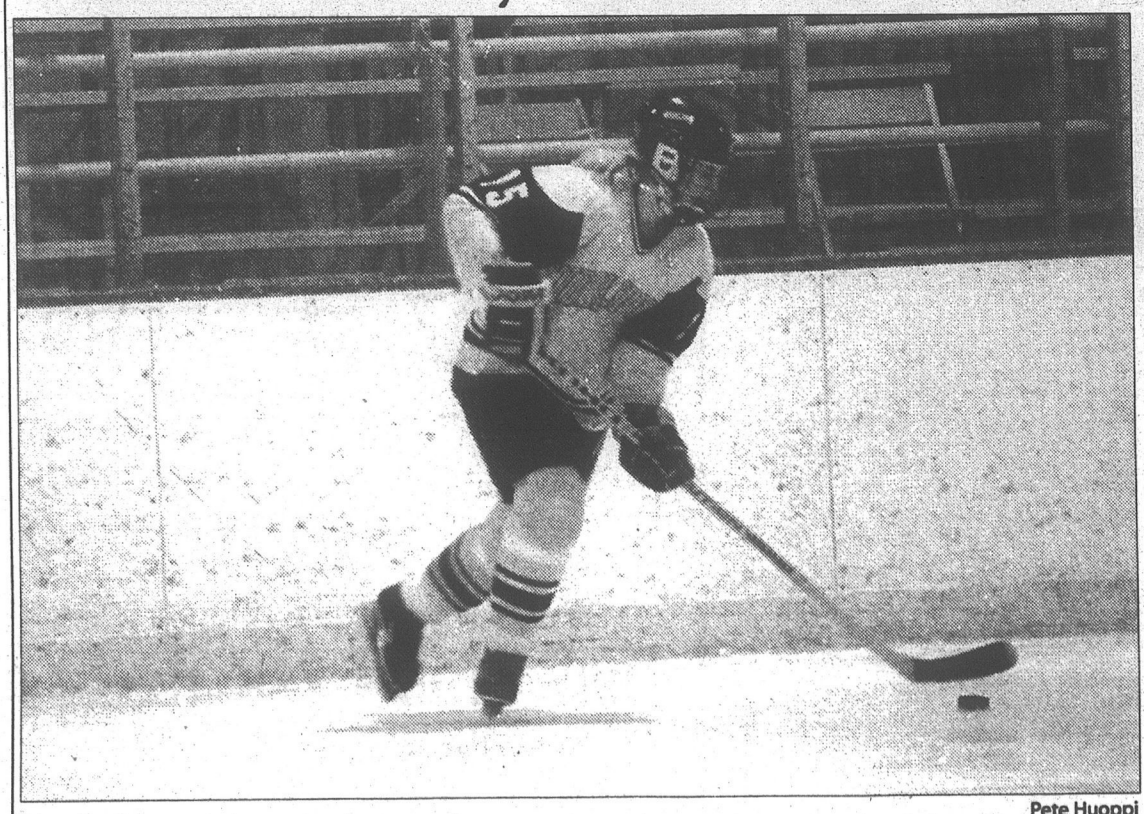
Leading the team in the field events was first-year Emily Howe. Howe leaped 16'03" to place tenth in the long jump. She also competed in the 55 meter hurdles, running a time of 9.16.

After jumping 5'00.25, Erin Parker '00 was part of a six-way tie for thirteenth place in the high jump. Rounding out Middlebury's strong showing in the field events was senior co-captain Ann Marie Oberg, whose distance of 44'01.5 put her in fifteenth place for the 20 lb. weight throw.

Coach Martin Beatty was thrilled with the team's performance, "I was especially excited to see our first-year athletes compete so well. Their times are really coming down which bodes well for an even more successful outdoor season."

With ECACs and NCAAs coming up, the women's track and field team are expected to prove themselves among the best in Division III competition.

Women's hockey finishes off season with perfect ECAC record



Pete Huoppi

Sarah Carpenter '01 has helped the women's hockey team remain undefeated in the ECAC Alliance this winter.

By Kendra Slater
Staff Writer

The Middlebury women's ice hockey team continued to pummel its ECAC Alliance opponents, as it defeated both Wesleyan and Connecticut College last week. The Panthers traveled to Wesleyan for the first of its two road games. Middlebury started off slow in the first period, with sophomore Sylvia Ryan tallying the only score.

However, the Panther offense picked up in the second period, just as it has for the majority of the season. Christa McDougall '00 scored twice while first-year Michelle Labbe scored once to build Middlebury's lead to 4-0. In the third period, Ryan continued to pour on her scoring prowess as she recorded two more goals for her own hat trick. Sophomore Catherine Pullins and junior Suzanne Chepren also scored a goal apiece in the third period to round out the Panther scoring. When the action in front of the Wesleyan goal had cleared, Middlebury found itself with a convincing 8-0 win. Junior Beth Denoncourt had a strong day in goal, as she recorded 16 saves and yet another shutout.

After Wesleyan, the Panthers faced an even easier opponent in Connecticut College. In comparison to Middlebury's impressive 17-4 record, Connecticut has a dismal 0-17-1 record. In response to this dramatic disparity, the Panthers decided to let two non-goalies play in the net for this game. Chepren and junior Janice O'Neil were the goalies for the day, as they combined to make six saves while only allowing one Connecticut goal.

While Chepren, O'Neil and the Middlebury defense was fighting back the Connecticut attack, the Panther offense was working in full force. Middlebury's team effort was evident, as eight different

(see Women's hockey, page 21)